Geology 102
Historical Geology
Spring 2011

Instructor: Penny Nicely (nicelyp@wnc.edu)
Office hours: In Douglas 2:30 – 5:00 Tuesday/Thursday, Room 102 Bently Hall or by appointment. Time may be scheduled on other campuses outside of these hours.

Contact instructor: Via email at the address above, or call and leave a message at the Douglas Campus (782-2413). E-mails will be answered the day received. Please reference the course number (i.e. Geology 102) in the subject line. Phone messages will be picked up T-Th only – phone messages left Friday will not be received until the following Tuesday.

Texts: *Evolution of the Earth*, Seventh Edition (Preferred), 8th Edition OK, by Prothero and Dott, and *Interpreting Earth History, A Manual in Historical Geology,* 7th Edition, (6th edition OK) by Petersen and Rigby. Both are required. **Caution:** If buying used lab manuals, be careful to insure that all the pages are intact and all assignments are included before buying.

Course meets: 7-9:45PM M/W via interactive video broadcast from Douglas Media Center. Two onsite lab sessions on Saturday, February 5th, beginning at 9:00AM in the science lab at the Douglas Campus in Minden **are required.**

Prerequisite: Geology 101/103

Course description: This is the second semester course for geological sciences and is transferable. It meets 4 credits of the elective science requirement for WNC's AS Geoscience Emphasis. For additional information see the course listing in the WNC online catalog.

Historical Geology traces the history of the earth over time. Included in the discussion are the concepts of plate tectonics and how the pattern of oceans and continents we see today evolved; the concepts of fossils and the development of life on earth; and the origin of our modern environment. Using the geologic time scale as a reference, the earth's history is reviewed through each of the geologic periods. Students will be introduced to these concepts through both lecture and practical laboratory exercises. Students will be tested on both the lecture and lab aspects of the course. This class assumes a basic knowledge of geologic concepts and terminology.

Course Objectives: Students will have the opportunity to gain factual knowledge regarding the geologic history of the earth and apply that knowledge through laboratory exercises to solve practical geologic problems.

Class rules: Class will begin on time**.** If you come in late, let the instructor know so your attendance will be counted. During class all cell phones will be turned off. No talking or texting allowed. This course is divided into two parts, lecture and lab. During both the lectures and labs, the microphones at Carson and Fallon will be left open. Remote site students should also be aware that the instructor can see them during class, but may miss a raised hand. If you have a question, please speak up. Class format will allow for question/answer sessions in both lecture and lab. Questions and discussion are expected and encouraged.

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Lecture/Lab Assignments

NOTE: Reading assignments should be done BEFORE class.

	Monday			**Wednesday**
January	24	Introduction/Chapters 1-2	27	Chapters 2-3
		Saturday February 5th 9-11:45 Lab A 12:30-3:15 Lab B		
	31	Chapters 4-5	**February** 3	**No Class see Feb 5**
	7	Chapter 6	10	Chapter 7 – Review
	14	**Exam 1**	16	Lab
	21	Chapters 8 - 9	23	Lab
	2	Chapters 8 - 9	**March** 2	Lab
	7	Chapters 10 -11	9	Lab
	14	Chapter 11 – Review	16	**Exam 2**
	21	**Spring Break**	23	**Spring Break**
	28	Lab	30	Lab
April	4	Chapter 12 – 13	6	Lab
	11	Chapter 14	13	Lab
	18	Chapter 15	20	Lab
	25	Chapter 16	27	**No class see Jan 30**
May	2	Chapter 17	4	Lab
	9	Review	11	Lab review
	16	**Final**		

Labs will be structured with a lecture/instruction period at the beginning of each session. Students will then work on their assignments. The instructor will be available to answer students' questions throughout the lab. The open mike will facilitate this and allow others to benefit from explanations. Fallon Labs will be faxed to the instructor in Minden as they are completed, Carson Labs will be left with the facilitator. Completed lab exercises will be worth 10 points each. All labs must be completed prior to the exam where the material they contain is tested, or no points will be given. In any case, Lab exercises must be completed within two weeks of the scheduled assignment. Labs **will** lose points for each week late. Example: For a 10 point exercise, one week late will be given 6 points, two weeks late 2 points. After two weeks late, no points will be given.

Exams: Three Exams will be given in this course. Each will count 200 points and will include questions from both lecture and lab. The division on each exam will be **approximately** 150 points for lecture and 50 for lab. Questions will be of the short answer variety. There will not be any multiple choice or T/F questions. It is your responsibility to be present for exams. Exams 1 and 2 may be taken early by arrangement with the instructor with no penalty. Note that for an early exam, one week's prior notice must be allowed for exams to be sent to Fallon or Carson. Make-ups for exams 1 and 2 will be allowed within one week after the exam date, however a -20 point penalty will be assessed for late exams. (i.e. If your test score on a makeup test is 180, you will receive 160 points) **Note that after one week, exams may not be made up. There will be no make up for the final.**

Exams will be taken on the date scheduled in the classroom. Exams will be provided to each room facilitator to administer to the class and will be collected by the facilitator and returned to the instructor for grading. Any student with special testing needs as determined by counseling should contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester to discuss arrangements.

Participation: Participation and attendance are worth 100 points. You are encouraged to ask questions. You are expected to be in class. Everyone will miss a class now and then, but in this course each meeting is a double session. You will be allowed one absence without penalty. Each class/lab missed after that will be a 10 point deduction from the participation points..

Grading: Grading will be on a points basis as outlined below. Everyone starts out with an A and the maximum possible points. How many points you keep and the grade you receive are entirely up to you. See grading example following points breakdown

The only extra credit available for this course will be possible bonus questions on the exams.

Note: No W's will be given in this class. It is your responsibility to withdraw before the last week of classes if you feel you cannot complete the course to your satisfaction.

Attendance and participation	100 points	960 – 864 points	A
Lab Exercises	260 points	863 – 768 points	B
Exam 1	200 points	767 – 672 points	C
Exam 2	200 points	671 – 576 points	D
Final Exam	200 points	575 - points	F
Total	960 points		

Grading example:
At the beginning of the class you have 960 points. On the first exam you receive 176/200 (88%). You then have 936 points – still an A. You earn 170/200 (85%) on the second exam. You then have 906 – Still an A. You've come to class and participated so your 100 points are probably not in danger, and you have done all your labs with no deductions. You can lose a total of 42 points on the remainder of the labs and the final and still keep your A, but at this point you will be wishing you had studied more in the beginning. Don't wait! Remember, the points you end up with determine your grade at the end of the semester. **Once you lose them, the points are gone**, so study now and ask questions on anything that isn't clear. **It is not advisable in this course to wait until late in the semester and hope to "pull it out" at the final – it won't happen.**