

SYLLABUS
SPECIAL TOPICS IN SCIENCE
HISTORICAL GEOLOGY
SPRING, 2016

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COURSE DESCRIPTION: Historical geology uses the principles and techniques of geology to reconstruct and understand the geological history of the earth. In this respect investigation and examination of geologic processes, stratigraphy, structural geology, paleontology and evolution will allow the student to compile and understand the events that have and continue to shape the history of our planet. This course is designed to be a writing-intensive study with pertinent topics assigned weekly that will require the student to research and explain various facets of historical geology.

Note: It is mandatory that the textbook be purchased for this course. The course textbook **MUST** be brought to each lecture.

TEXT: *The Earth Through Time*; Harold L. Levin, 10th Ed.; John Wiley & Sons, Inc.; 2013.
ISBN: 978-1-118-25467-7

LECTURE SCHEDULE:

Please note that changes and alterations of topics and dates are inevitable, so please remain flexible.

ATTENDANCE POLICY: Attendance will be taken in each class and laboratory period. Unexcused absences from lecture and lab will be reflected in the final grade. Students have the responsibility to secure and present evidence of the nature of any legitimate excused absence.

CELL PHONES: Cell phones **MUST** be turned off or put on “vibrate only” during class or lab. No texting or other use of cell phones will be tolerated during class.

TOPIC/CHAPTER**WEEK OF:**

Introduction/Basic Principles

Jan. 18

(Chap. 1 & 2)

Geologic Time/Minerals/Rocks

Jan. 25

(Chap. 3 & 4)

Sedimentary Rock Record/Fossils

Feb. 1

(Chap. 5 & 6)

Plate Tectonics (Chap. 7)

Feb. 8

LECTURE EXAM #1**FEB. 15**

Archean Eon (Chap. 8)

Feb. 22

Proterozoic (Chap. 9)

Feb. 29

SPRING BREAK**March 7**

Early Paleozoic (Chap. 10)

March 14

Middle to Late Paleozoic (Chap. 11)

March 21

Paleozoic Life (Chap. 12)

March 28

LECTURE EXAM #2**APRIL 4**

Mesozoic (Chap. 13)

April 11

Mesozoic and Cenozoic

April 18

(Chap. 14, 15 & 16)

Human Evolution (Chap. 17)

April 25

LECTURE EXAM #3**TO BE ANNOUNCED**

LABORATORY SCHEDULE:

No Lab Meeting	Jan. 18
Relative Dating	Jan. 25
Basic Stratigraphy	Feb. 1
Physical Stratigraphy I	Feb. 8
Physical Stratigraphy II	Feb. 15
Sedimentology & Depositional Environments	Feb. 22

LAB MID-TERM EXAMINATION

FEB. 29

SEMESTER BREAK

MARCH 7

Introduction to Paleontology	March 14
Paleontology and the identification of major phyla I	March 21
Paleontology and the identification of major phyla II	March 28
Geologic Structures	April 4
Geologic Maps	April 11

LAB FINAL EXAMINATION

APRIL 18

NOTE: Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability should contact Academic Support Center, located on the first floor of Monocacy Hall (extension 1401). Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the Academic Support Center.