Syllabus--Geology 102: The Earth Through Time, 3 credits.
Fall semester, 2007 (#7641)

***Note: Geol 102 labs will not meet during the week of August 20-24.***

Read the important information in the following links:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course characteristics.</th>
<th>What to bring to exams.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course <strong>requirements</strong>, <strong>grading</strong> and <strong>format</strong> of exams.</td>
<td>Study tips; amount of effort.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy on missed exams.</td>
<td>Scholastic dishonesty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UND GER goals</td>
<td>Disability statement.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional Policies and Information:

1. Be familiar with all policies. If you ask questions that are already covered in the syllabus (including the links), I will direct you here. Reading the syllabus is required.

2. We are not using Blackboard. Consult Moodle frequently.

3. Policies may be altered during the semester if I conclude it is necessary to do so. For example, I might add unannounced in-class quizzes, etc. Announcements of policy changes, if any, will be posted on this web site.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- To understand the evidence and reasoning used by geologists to interpret Earth history.
- To gain insight into the vastness of geologic time ("deep time").
- To appreciate the history of life and of extinction on Earth.
- To understand Earth as a dynamic planet.

Some characteristics of this class are:

- There are no UND prerequisites.
- Geology 102 is approved for General Education credit in the Math, Science, and Technology area. If you are trying to meet UND's 4-credit lab science requirement, you must also take Geol 102L (1 cr.). You will receive a separate grade for Geol 102L if you take it.
• Regular readings will be assigned from a textbook available at the UND bookstore.
• Exam dates, times and locations are firm. All students must be present during exams.
• Students will take on-line review quizzes to help them pace themselves. Your scores on these quizzes **DO** count toward your grade. You are allowed one attempt per quiz and all deadlines will be adhered to.
• Unannounced in-class quizzes will also count toward your grade.
• There is no extra credit.

Return

**Course Requirements, Grading, Format of Exams**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grades</th>
<th>Grading Guidelines--Grades will be assigned approximately as follows:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Exam I - 20.5% of final grade.</td>
<td>• 90-100% A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Exam II - 20.5% of final grade.</td>
<td>• 80-89% B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Exam III - 20.5% of final grade.</td>
<td>• 70-79% C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Exam IV - 20.5% of final grade.</td>
<td>• 60-69% D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Quizzes - 15% of final grade.</td>
<td>• Below 60% F</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Knowledge Surveys - 3% of final grade.</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• **Exams**
  - **Exam dates are firm.** All students must be present at the scheduled time and location.
  - **Bring a photo ID to each exam.**
  - **Bring #2 pencil to each exam.**
  - **Format of exams:** The exams will contain multiple-choice and true/false questions over material covered since the last test (~40-60 questions, usually). In addition, you will do some writing on exams. One sort of writing question will ask you to give a detailed discussion showing that you have mastered at least one UND GER goal (see GER goals elsewhere on the syllabus). Also, by the end of the semester, you will need to be able to construct the Geologic Time Scale "from scratch" and indicate on it the timing of certain key events in Earth and life history. Exams will include questions about slides, diagrams, and pictures from the course notes or from the book and on materials similar to those.
  - **You can see your graded exam in my office (207 Leonard Hall).**
• **Quizzes.** These are required. They count toward your grade. Be aware of deadlines. Although most quiz questions will be answered online (through
Moodle), some will be answered in class. The in-class quiz questions will be unannounced.

- **Knowledge Surveys.** You will rate your confidence to answer questions pertaining to specific course content. Each survey is taken twice, once before the material is covered (round 1) and once after it is covered (round 2). You only receive credit if you complete both rounds of a knowledge survey by the deadline for each. Follow the instructions (elsewhere) to register with Knowledge Surveyor.

- **Extra credit**—There is **no** extra credit. If you need more points, you should spend any time you would have spent doing extra credit to work on the material for the remaining exams.

**Policy on Missed Exams**

The exam dates are **firm**, barring an emergency in which the President closes UND.

All students must be present for every exam.

Exams will not be given early. Exams will not be given late.

Accommodations for missed exams will only be made in the event of a verified and documented emergency, or required participation in a UND-sponsored event such as an athletic competition that conflicts with the exam.

In the event of an emergency that interferes with an exam, you must notify me immediately and you must produce satisfactory documentation. In the event of participation in a UND-sponsored athletic competition that conflicts with an exam, you must notify me no later than one week prior to the exam; your coach ordinarily supplies the verification of your participation. If you ask for a make-up exam on the basis of emergency illness, you must supply a note from an M.D. stating specifically that you were too ill to take the exam at the scheduled time. Other emergencies may occur; talk to me about your specific case and be prepared to document it.

The only time you may make up an exam missed due to an emergency is 10:00 a.m., Monday, December 18, 2006, which is after final exams are over but before grades are due in the Registrar's Office.
According to the UND Academic Catalog:

By the time students complete their general education courses, they should be able to:

- communicate effectively, both orally and in writing;
- think critically and creatively;
- make informed choices;
- understand how conclusions are reached in the natural sciences, the social sciences, and the arts and humanities;
- acquire knowledge over a broad spectrum of subject areas;
- develop familiarity with cultures other than their own.

This class contains many opportunities for you to demonstrate that you have achieved at least four of the GER goals:

- think critically and creatively;
- make informed choices;
- understand how conclusions are reached in the natural sciences, the social sciences, and the arts and humanities;
- acquire knowledge over a broad spectrum of subject areas.

On exams, you will be asked to write detailed discussions that show your mastery of one or more of the goals, drawing examples from course content.

What to Bring to Exams:

- Bring a photo ID to each exam.
- Bring #2 pencils to each exam.

Study tips: amount of effort

1. You will learn many new terms and concepts in this course. Geology is a very visual science, so it helps if you can make your brain "see" what the geologic term is referring to. For instance, when learning the meaning of the word "trilobite", it helps if you can "see" a trilobite in your mind's eye. To help see and understand
terms and concepts, it is a good idea to practice drawing and labeling important diagrams.

2. Always connect features (things) with the processes that formed them. In this way, you can become an owner of knowledge, not just a memorizer of facts. Try always to see connections. Don't simply memorize things just before exams; it doesn't work well for most people.

3. It is a good idea to keep a list of new terms, and add to this list throughout the semester. You can go to each term or phrase in the list one at a time, and check yourself for level of understanding. Can you "see" the feature? Can you recognize a diagram of it? Can you list important characteristics of the feature?

4. Writing and rewriting notes and drawing and labeling diagrams will help most people incorporate information into their memories.

5. Know everything that is in the class notes, backward and forward. Test questions may require you to put two or more pieces of information together to get the right answer.


7. The amount of effort required to do well in most UND classes (even intro science classes) takes many people by surprise—but this is not unique to UND. Many universities advise students to expect to spend 2 or 3 hours studying outside of class for every 1 hour spent in the classroom (i.e., for every 1 credit of a lecture course). Let's see what this means:

If you are carrying a "full time load" of 15 credits, you will typically spend about 15 hours a week in class. If you spend 3 hours studying for every one hour in class, then you will spend 45 hours studying outside class each week. The total amount of time you spend on course work is therefore (15 + 45 =) 60 hours per week!!! Not like high school.

Or, if you go with the lower recommendation (2 hours a week studying for every one hour in class), then you spend 15 hours per week in class and 30 hours per week studying outside class, for a total of 45 hours per week on course work. Yikes!

So, when they say "full-time student" it really means "full time!"

I can't really tell you how long you will need to study to do well; it will vary quite a bit from one individual to another. If you can do well by spending less time on a subject, good for you! On the other hand I had to work pretty hard to do well, and I think most people will be in the same boat. If you're not doing as well as you want, try spending more time on the material—even more than the guidelines (above) if necessary.

Return.
**Scholastic Dishonesty**—See the Code of Student Life. I may assign a course grade of F for *any kind* of cheating (and I have!). Don't do it. Note that sanctions apply to people rendering unauthorized assistance as well as to those receiving it. Take care to understand the meanings of "plagiarism" and "collusion," both of which are prohibited.

Return

**Disability statement**—If you need accommodations in this course because of a disability, if you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need special arrangements during exams in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible. My office location and phone number are on the handout from the first day of class.

Return