

GEOLOGY 103**EARTH THROUGH TIME****SPRING 2008**

Instructor: Dr. Thomas W. Kammer

Office: 243 Brooks Hall Lab: 265 Brooks Hall

Phone: 293-9663

E-mail: tkammer@wvu.edu

Class Web Page: www.geo.wvu.edu/~kammer/geol103.htm **Check regularly!**

Office Hours: 1-3 p.m., Monday and Wednesday; other hours by appointment.

This course satisfies GEC Objective 2 in the area of Scientific Inquiry.

Prerequisite: Geology 101, Planet Earth, or Geo 110, Environmental Geoscience

Text: Earth System History. By Steven M. Stanley, 2005.

Lab: Geology 104 labs will not meet the first week of classes, except for the two Monday labs (because Jan. 21 is the MLK holiday).

Attendance: Not required, but you are responsible for all material covered in class. Past experience shows that test scores are correlated with attendance. For most students poor attendance = low grade. Regular attendance will help your grade because the majority of test questions are based on lecture, plus there are Wednesday Extra Credit Quizzes.

Extra Credit: Extra credit quizzes will be given nearly every Wednesday (14 total) during the semester. They will be based on material covered in the Monday and Wednesday lectures for that week. Regular attendance should insure good performance on the quizzes. You can add up to 10% to your final average based on your quiz scores. There are no other opportunities for extra credit beyond the quizzes.

Tests: There will be four multiple choice tests; each test will be worth 25% of the course grade. Although the tests are multiple choice, don't underestimate their difficulty! They are not multiple-guess tests. Each test will contain 33 questions, with 5 questions taken directly from the textbook (you should do at least a letter grade better by reading the book). Don't discount the first test thinking you can improve your grade later; every test counts! Scores will be posted on either the class web page or eCampus (TBD).

Computer Testing: Rooms 416 & 419 Brooks Hall will be open from 5-9 pm on Wednesday, 1-9 pm on Thursday, and 1-5 pm on Friday of Tests 1-3. You need to stop in only during these available times to take the test. Be prepared to wait if it is a busy time as 3 other large classes will be testing as well. Most people finish in under 30 minutes.

Test 1: Feb. 6-8

Test 2: March 5-7

Test 3: April 9-11

Test 4: May 8, 11 am – 2 pm (4 computer testing rooms available for us)

These arrangements are tentative, so stay tuned on web page for any changes.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR TAKING COMPUTER EXAMS

1. You **MUST** report to the hallway outside **416 & 419 BROOKS HALL** to check in with the test proctors. Tell them you are in GEOL 103 (GEOL 101 test takers will be there as well).

NOTE: Arrive at least a half hour before the end of testing times when the computers shut down. Once this happens the test is finished regardless of any unanswered questions.

2. You **MUST** bring your **WVU STUDENT ID CARD**. We will **NOT** accept any other form of ID. Period.
3. You **MUST** know your student number (700xxxxxx) to access the exam.
4. You **MUST NOT** have any materials whatsoever (including papers, notes, memory sticks/cards, cell phones) with you at the computer. You may leave them with your coat on the floor around the perimeter of the room. You can obtain a pencil and sheet of paper from the proctor by leaving your ID. You can use these to jot down things you have memorized to help you during the test; you must return these to the proctor to retrieve your ID.
5. You **MUST NOT** open up any other computer program while testing. The computers are locked down to prevent this and there is monitoring software installed on the computers.
6. Should you arrive at a high volume time, you may need to **WAIT** for an available computer.

Makeup Test: Because there are a total of 16 hours over 3 days for each of the regularly scheduled tests, it is your responsibility to plan your schedule so that no test is missed. **THERE WILL BE NO MAKEUP TEST FOR A MISSED TEST.** If there are incredible circumstances that would actually cause you to miss a test, you must provide extraordinarily convincing documentation and we can discuss the options, all of which would involve substantially more effort than taking a regular test. Be careful here as you could end up with a zero for a missed test if you fail to properly document your absence. For instance, don't wait until a Friday to take the test and then decide you were too sick to show up, or your car broke down. There is no Makeup Test for Test 4.

Mid-Term Grade Report: Based on Test 1 grade distribution. If you miss Test 1 an F will be reported, even though it is not an earned F.

Grades: It is your responsibility to check your grades on the class webpage or eCampus to make sure all tests and quizzes you took are reported. Contact me if you have a

question about your grade. Grade scale boundaries are determined by setting middle C based on the class test average. I will provide a tentative grade distribution for each test so you can judge your performance. However, at the end of the semester the middle C grade will be based on the class average for those students who took all 4 tests. The grade scale will then be symmetrically distributed about the middle C. After the grade boundaries are determined, then the extra credit quiz points will be added to determine your final grade so that these points truly are extra credit.

Here is a possible EXAMPLE of a symmetrical grade distribution based on a middle C of 67% before extra credit is added:

A+ 95-100%
 A 85-94%
 B 73-84%
 C 62-72%
 D 50-61%
 F < 50%

Suppose you had an average of 67% on your 4 tests, and 6% extra credit on quizzes. Your final score would be 73% for a grade of B. I do not give + or - grades, except for A+. I round up for averages ending in 0.5 or higher. I do not raise borderline grades for any reason because there already is extra credit.

SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT

West Virginia University is committed to social justice. I concur with that commitment and expect to foster a nurturing learning environment based upon open communication, mutual respect, and non-discrimination. Our University does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, age, disability, veteran status, religion, sexual orientation, color, or national origin. Any suggestions as to how to further such a positive and open environment in this class will be appreciated and given serious consideration.

If you are a person with a disability and anticipate needing any type of accommodation in order to participate in this class, please advise me and make appropriate arrangements with Disability Services (293-6700).

A note on Academic Dishonesty

Each student is expected to submit their own work on quizzes and tests. You may take computer-based tests only when proctors are present. I expect each student to be familiar with the regulations on plagiarism and cheating as described in the WVU student handbook, the Mountie (Section 3.1.1.3). www.arc.wvu.edu/rightsa.html

Week of:	Topic	Text pages
-----------------	--------------	-------------------

Jan. 14	Introduction to Earth History	3-13, 20-24
Jan. 21	Sedimentary Rocks and Environments	38-46, 103-127
Jan. 28	Geologic Time	129-151

TEST 1 (Outlines 1-6), FEBRUARY 6-8

Feb. 4	Fossils and Evolution	153-161, 165-168
Feb. 11	Human Evolution and the Ice Ages	502-512, 458-459 472-473, 477-488
Feb. 18	The Cenozoic World	460-466, 489-496
Feb. 25	Cenozoic Life: Mammals	449-454, 521-525

TEST 2 (Outlines 7-12), MARCH 5-7

March 3	The Mesozoic World: Origin of Petroleum	404-406, 428-432
March 10	Mesozoic Life: Dinosaurs and Reptiles	395-404, 425-428 433-437
March 17	The Paleozoic World: Mountain Building and Coal formation	312-317, 343-344, 348-351, 369-373, 380
March 24	SPRING BREAK	
March 31	Paleozoic Life: Invertebrates and Fish	299-312, 327-336, 339, 342

TEST 3(Outlines 13-19), APRIL 9-11

April 7	Origin of the Earth and its Crust	247-250, 255-258
April 14	Precambrian Life: Mostly Microbes	262-263, 266-270, 278-286
April 21	History of the Universe and Solar System	251-254
April 28	Holocene Climate Change	515-537

TEST 4(Outlines 20-24), MAY 8

GEOLOGY 103

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR CONTRACT

Huge classes, such as Geology 103, are necessarily held in very large rooms rather than small classrooms. These large rooms, and the number of students involved, require special classroom procedures on the part of both instructor and student. Things that are normally understood, or handled informally, in a smaller classroom must be spelled-out, formalized, and given special attention in a class like Geology 103. That is the purpose of this document. These rules will make the class more rewarding and enjoyable for all of us -- your fellow students as well as me.

My job as the instructor. I agree to:	Your job as the student:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To begin class precisely at 3:30 PM. 2. To stay at least five minutes after class for individual questions or discussion. 3. To make any general announcement about course matters not covered in the syllabus at least twice on successive days. 4. To answer any questions about subject matter, or tests, to the best of his ability and never use sarcasm or humiliation in responding (i.e., to respect all questions and students as being serious). 5. To accept written or oral questions before or after the class period and respond in class. Where written, these may be submitted to me directly, or, anonymously to my mailbox in Room 327 Brooks Hall. You may also send me an email message.. tkammer@wvu.edu 6. To discuss in class any suggestions or criticisms received, and to incorporate suggestions whenever possible. 7. Not to hold the class beyond the end of the class period, which is 4:45 PM, precisely. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To be in class and seated before class begins at 3:30 PM. 2. To stop talking at the start of class. 3. To refrain from talking during class. 4. To remain seated and attentive (OK, at least not restless) until dismissed, and to refrain from preparing to leave until dismissed, which will be precisely at 4:45 PM 5. When unavoidably arriving late, or having to leave early, to enter and exit quietly. 6. To submit written questions if you do not wish to speak in class. 7. To remember that I am always approachable. I am concerned about your progress as a student. My job is to teach geology, it is not to find ways to give low grades. <p><i>8. Make sure your cell phone is turned off during class.</i></p>