

# Physical Geology - GLY 200-102 - Fall 2015

Tuesday/Thursday 9:30-10:45am - Science 276

3 credit hours; co-requisite (depending on major): Earth Materials Lab (GLY 210L)

Professor: Dr. Mitchell Scharman  
Phone: (304) 696-5434

Office: Science 163  
Email: scharman@marshall.edu

Office Hours: MWF 10am-noon; TR 11am-noon; or by appointment or chance

**Professor not available in the hour before scheduled classes**

**Required Textbook:** *Physical Geology*, Plummer et al. (15th ed.) (Note: a different edition can be used. However, beware that page numbers, chapters, and figures may differ or be missing from older editions and will be up to you to sort out these differences)

**Course Description:** An elementary but comprehensive physical geology course that deals with the Earth's origin, composition, structure, and tectonic processes. Intended primarily for, but not limited to, the science major.

The goals of this course are for each student to develop a firm understanding of geologic processes that include:

- Rock and mineral formation, and the related Earth processes that formed them
- Overall Earth structure, plate tectonic activity, and variations at different plate boundaries
- Geo-hazards resulting from tectonic, fluvial, and mass wasting events
- Geologic time, and methods to determining relative and absolute ages of Earth history events
- Impact of geologic processes in society - especially development and management of geologic resources and their impacts; impacts of geologic hazards and mitigation; and investigation of the processes that have occurred to shape the current state of the Earth

**Course Assessment:**

Exam 1: 15%

Exam 2: 15%

Final Exam: 25%

Assignments: 20%

Quizzes: 25%

**Total: 100%**

**Grading Scale:**

A - 90-100%; B - 80-89%;

C - 70-79%; D - 60-69%;

F - 0-59%

**Attendance and Make-up Work Policy:**

There is no lecture attendance policy, however, missing any lecture will lower your in-class participation grade. Make-up quizzes, assignments, and exams will only be given for serious medical or legal reasons, military obligation, or university activities excused by the academic deans. **Notice of an excused absence must be received by the instructor through the Dean of Student Affairs' office** (see the MU Undergraduate Catalog for more information). There will be no make-up assignments/quizzes/exams without an official excused absence from the Dean of Students.

Note: In the case of an excused absence, the assignment/quiz/exam must be completed by a later date assigned by the instructor. Failure by the student to complete the quiz/exam by this assigned date will result in a grade of zero for the assignment/quiz/exam. In the case of a missed in-class assignment where participation is a major factor an alternate assignment will be provided.

# Physical Geology - GLY 200-102 - Fall 2015

## **Quizzes and Exams**

Quizzes will be given periodically throughout the semester. Quiz dates will be announced in lecture as the semester progresses. These quizzes should help you prepare for the exams throughout the course.

There are two mid-semester exams and a final exam in the course. The dates and times for each exam are listed in the course schedule. The final exam date and time is set by the registrar's office prior to the start of the semester. No quiz/exam will be given early for any reason. A make-up quiz/exam will only be given with notice from the Dean of Students.

## **Lectures and Assignments**

Every student is expected to take notes during lecture. Lecture recordings, important documents, and information pertaining to the course will be posted on Blackboard.

You are expected to read each chapter prior to when the topic is discussed in lecture. With each week's reading assignments is a pre-lecture question, designed to prepare you for basic concepts that will be discussed. These are assigned and submitted through Blackboard. The Blackboard assignment submission page is set up to stop accepting assignments at the start of lecture on the due date. No late assignments accepted.

Various other assignments and activities will be conducted during lectures. Therefore it is important that you are present during lecture in order to receive credit for these assignments.

## **Personal Conduct**

Everyone in the course is expected to act in a professional and courteous manner. Any disruptive or offensive behavior - especially that directed at anyone else in the class - will not be tolerated. Any violation will be met with a requirement to drop the course and forfeit any associated grades.

All cell phones must be turned off, put away, and remain away, for the duration of each class period. It is extremely unprofessional, as well as a waste of the professor's and fellow student's time, if you are looking at a cell phone while a conversation/lecture/assignment is in progress. Having a cell phone out during a quiz/exam is considered cheating and will be handled accordingly.

Finally, I will only respond to emails that are written with at least a basic level of professionalism and courtesy. Email responses will be sent as soon as possible. If it is something urgent, please visit me during office hours or make an appointment ASAP.

## Physical Geology - GLY 200-102 - Fall 2015

### Course Schedule:

Week	Topic	Reading
Aug. 25/27	Introduction	Chapter 1
Sept. 1/3	Earth's Structure	Chapter 17
Sept. 8/10	Plate Tectonics	Chapter 19
Sept. 15/17	Minerals	Chapter 2
Sept. 22/24	Review; <b>Exam 1</b> ; Chapters 1, 2, 17, 19	
Sept. 29/Oct. 1	Igneous Rocks	Chapter 3
Oct. 6/8	Volcanic Rocks	Chapter 4
Oct. 13/15	Weathering/Erosion	Chapter 5
Oct. 20/22	Sedimentary Rocks	Chapter 6
Oct. 27/29	Review; <b>Exam 2</b> ; Chapters 3-6	
Nov. 3	GSA Conference - No Class	
Nov. 5	Geologic Time	Chapter 8
Nov. 10/12	Mass Wasting	Chapter 9
Nov. 17/19	Earthquakes	Chapter 16
Nov. 24/26	Thanksgiving Break - No Classes	
Dec. 1/3	Fluvial Processes	Chapter 10
Tuesday Dec. 8	<b>Final Exam: 8-10am</b> ; Cumulative	

*\*Note: Schedule may change throughout semester due to unforeseen circumstances, and lecture topics may continue beyond listed week.*

*\*October 30: Last day to drop a full semester course*

*\*December 4: Last day to completely withdraw from Fall semester*

By your continued enrollment in this course, you agree with the policies in this syllabus and to the University Policies listed below:

Academic Dishonesty; Excused Absence Policy for Undergraduates; Computing Services Acceptable Use; Inclement Weather; Dead Week; Students with Disabilities; Academic Forgiveness; Academic Probation and Suspension; Academic Rights and Responsibilities of Students; Affirmative Action; Sexual Harassment

The full text of each policy is available at: <http://muwww-new.marshall.edu/academic-affairs/policies/>