

ESCI 121 Sec 01 Geology 1 Syllabus

Spring 2018

Lecture: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 1-150pm

Science Building S327

Lab: Tuesday 12:30-2:30pm

Instructor: Professor Melany McFadden

Email: mmcfadde1@massasoit.edu

Office: S107 in science building

Phone: 508-588-9100 x1616

Office hours: Office hours in classroom S327 (if not there look in S107): Mon. 4:10-5:10pm, Tues. 2:20-3:20pm, Wed. 4:10-5:10 pm

Online Office Hours: Thurs 10:30-11:30am via email contact or google hangout

*** You can also stop by anytime or make an appointment to meet with me!**

Required Text

No text book is required for this course. Instead we will use FREE Open Access Education Resources (OERs). Readings will be posted on the class CANVAS site. [Our primary online textbook:](#)

Course Description

This course is intended to acquaint students with the physical structure of the earth, the nature of the materials constituting it, and the major processes responsible for continual change. Students learn how geologists go about interpreting the earth and deciphering its history. In the laboratory portion of the course, emphasis is placed on becoming familiar with crystal rocks and minerals and the effects of geological processes as interpreted from topographic maps and aerial photographs. Lecture: 3 hours
Laboratory: 2 hours Prerequisite: C- or better in Introductory Algebra (MATH101) or waiver by placement testing results, or Departmental Approval

Course Goals

The goals of this course are to help students learn:

- 1) How Earth processes operate, how they shape the environment and how they affect people.
- 2) To identify and interpret geologic features and events seen or experienced in your life.

Course Objectives

After completion of this course a student will be able to:

- recognize and identify earth materials (assessment by lab exercises and quizzes)
- locate the epicenter of an earthquake (assessment by lab exercises and exams)
- determine the plate tectonic setting based on geologic features and geologic events (assessed by lab exercises, homeworks, and exams)
- explain the difference between relative and absolute time (assessed by homeworks and exams)
- critically evaluate current geologic events (assessed by Geology in the News)

Student Responsibilities

Please read the entire syllabus carefully because the student is responsible for all of the information, requirements, and procedures described herein. The student is also responsible for all announcements, assignments, modifications, changes, etc. that may be made during the course, whether or not the student is present in lecture. **I expect you to check your massasoit.edu email and CANVAS frequently as this is how I will communicate with you outside of class, if necessary.**

CANVAS

Class updates (e.g. reading assignments, news, syllabus updates etc.) and pdfs of some handouts from lectures will be available through online course material. Lecture slides will be posted on CANVAS.

**I will communicate with you through your massasoit email and CANVAS!!

Assessment

Your grade in this course will be assigned based on your performance on in-lecture activities that will improve your ability to recognize and identify earth materials, lecture-based homeworks, four exams, and the laboratory section. Cheating of any kind will result in failure of the assignment/exam, and in some cases the entire class.

Grading

Exam I	13%
Exam II	13%
Exam III	13%
Final Exam	17%
Homework/Reading Reflections	10%
In-class participation	4%
Geology in the News	5%
Labs and Lab Quizzes	25%

Grading

Your final grade will be calculated as a percentage using the above breakdown. Conversion to a letter grade will be made as follows:

Final Grade	Final Percentage	Final Grade	Final Percentage
A	93 – 100%	C	74 – 77%
A-	90 – 93%	C-	70 – 73%
B+	87 – 90%	D+	67 – 70%
B	83 – 87%	D	63– 67%
B-	80 – 83%	D-	60 – 63%
C+	77 – 80%	F	0 – 60%

Exams

There will be four exams for this course. There are no make-up exams. Exams will focus on material covered since the last exam (or the beginning of the course for exam I). The final is cumulative. It will cover material from last portion of the course and key concepts from entire semester. **You will not be allowed to make up an exam for any reason during the semester, so a missed exam will be assigned a zero grade.** The zero grade or lowest exam grade can be replaced by your final exam grade. Exceptions will be made only under extraordinary circumstances **and** when the proper documentation is provided. *If classes are cancelled on an exam day, it will be given during the first meeting when classes resume.

Homework

There will be short homework assignment that will facilitate understanding of the reading and course material. The assignments may include items like image interpretation or chapter review questions. They will be graded and worth 10 points each. **Late homeworks will only be accepted 1 class period late and 20% will be deducted. After 1 class period past the due date, homeworks will not be accepted.**

In-class Participation

We will have in-class assignments during class that will complement the lecture topics. These cannot be made up. Miss class, miss the assignment, and get a zero for the activity. If you spend time on your cell phone during class, which is prohibited, you will lose a portion or all of the in-class activity points towards your grade. In-class participation also includes credit for showing up on time for class and lab.

Geology in the News

Student will give an oral presentation to the class of a recent geology-related news stories using powerpoint. The purpose of this is to help students critically evaluate current geologic events and their presentation in the media, as well as practice public speaking. See handout given out in class or on CANVAS.

Laboratory Exercises

The laboratory portion of this class is essential for understanding and using concepts and ideas discussed in the class; it also forms a significant portion of your grade. Laboratory exercises are due at the start of the lab the following week. Lab quizzes may be given at the start of lab on the previous week's lab activities and the pre-lab for the upcoming lab. If you come late, you will not be allowed to take the quiz. Labs must be turned in on time and need to be neat. **There are no make-up labs or lab quizzes. The lowest lab quiz and lab will be dropped.**

Lab Safety

No food or drinks are allowed in the lab!

Attendance

You are expected to attend every class. In-class assignments cannot be made up. It is students responsibility to complete all course requirements and for keeping up with all that goes on in the course, whether they are present in class or not. In other words, if you miss class ask another student what you missed and get copies of lecture notes. Also check CANVAS and email for information. Lecture slides which will include new assignments and announcements will be posted in the files folder of CANVAS.

I reserve the right to modify the course structure and content of the course as necessary.

Texting and Cell Phones: Cell phones must be turned off (not vibrate) during class and lab. If you are texting or using your phone in class you will get a zero for all in-class participation. If you have an extenuating circumstance talk to me before class.

Laptops: Laptops cannot be used for note-taking in class.

Disability Services are available for students with a documented learning, physical, or psychological disability. To receive classroom or testing accommodations, students must contact Disability Services to acquire an Accommodation Letters, which must be updated each semester. To avoid a lapse in services, students are encouraged to contact Disability Services at the beginning of each semester. For all campuses, please call 508-588-9100 x 2132.

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Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights. [The Policy on Affirmative Action, Equal Opportunity & Diversity](#).

HELPFUL TIPS- If you are having difficulty, seek help immediately by asking questions during the lecture/lab or visiting me during office hours. Do not hesitate to ask questions any time if you are not clear about the material; chances are that others are equally confused and may also be hesitant to speak up. You should expect that you will have to read each chapter at least twice (or more) to fully absorb and appreciate the material.

1. Be on time or early for class. If you are late for any reason enter the room as discreetly as possible.
2. Attend and actively participate in class.
3. Read the text before and after class.
4. **Review notes/do homework 1-2 hours outside of class for every hour in class!**
5. Form study groups.
6. Take advantage of my office hours and ask questions.
7. Smile and enjoy your time in class and lab. Learning can be fun!

Schedule	Jan 22	Mon	Spring 2018 classes begin
Intro/Geography	February 2018		
How we study the Earth/What is Geology/Geologic Time	Feb 19	Mon	<i>Presidents Day</i> (no classes)
Plate Tectonics	Feb 20	Tue	Convocation (no day classes)
Minerals, Resources	March 2018		
Rock Cycle	Exam 1		
	Mar 11 - 18	Sun - Sun	<i>Spring Break</i> (no classes)
Igneous Rocks	Mar 26 - Apr 6	Mon - Fri	Advising Period for Fall 2018
Volcanoes	April 2018		
Sedimentary	Apr 2	Mon	Summer 2018 registration begins
Metamorphic Rocks/Mountains	Apr 9 - 13	Mon - Fri	Priority registration period for Fall 2018
Exam 2	Apr 16	Mon	<i>Patriots Day</i> (no classes)
Earthquakes	Apr 17	Tue	Fall 2018 registration open to all
Energy Resources	Apr 27	Fri	Last day to withdraw from Spring 2018 classes
Glaciers and Water	Exam 3		
Climate History and Future	Final Exam Thurs 5/10 from 1-3pm		
	May 9	Wed	Last day of Spring 2018 classes
	May 10 - 16	Thu - Wed	Final exams (day, evening, online)