

Geology 125 Earth History: A Planet and Its Evolution

Professor:

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Office hours: Mondays 2-3, by appointment, or e-mail me at any time.

TAs:

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Required Reading: *Your Inner Fish* (Shubin) This is an inexpensive book and a fun read.

Required Subscription: TopHat (you will receive an email instructing you how to sign up).

Grading:

Midterm 1:	20% Friday February 10 th
Midterm 2:	20% Wednesday March 8 th
Final Exam (cumulative):	20% Wednesday May 3 rd (11 am, same room)
Class Project:	20% Due in lab week of March 27 th
Lab and TopHat:	20%

Lab: Attendance is mandatory. **If you have more than two unexcused lab absences, you will automatically fail the course.** Lab materials are set up for one week and then put away, so we are not able to provide "make up" labs. There will be a lab final (10% of total class grade), a grade for participation/assignments (5% of total class grade), and a grade for TopHat participation (5% of total class grade). To receive full TopHat participation, you must have participated in a minimum of 80% of the TopHat activities in class (explained in more detail on the first day of class; if you missed that lecture, see me in person).

Class Project: A 5-10 minute presentation is required for this class on the geology of your hometown. The details will be introduced in lab during week 2—thus, you have plenty of time to work on the project. The project is worth 20% of your grade. **20% of your grade.** Advice: do not wait until the last minute to do your project. There will be milestones along the way to help you finish on time and get a good grade (see course schedule, next page).

Field Trip: There will be a one-day field trip **required** for this course with the date TBA, but it will likely be on a Saturday. If you are unable to attend the field trip because of extenuating circumstance (substantiated by an official letter from doctors, clergy, etc.), you will be required to do a **makeup exercise (worked out with TA)**. If you fail to attend the trip (or fail hand in the makeup exercise) you will forfeit your participation grade in lab and TopHat—this amounts to 10% of your total class grade.

Blackboard and TopHat: this course will make extensive use of the Blackboard online system. Check it frequently. We will also use the online/texting system called TopHat, which will be explained in class. It will be worth 5% of your total class grade.

Week of	Part I: The Toolkit	Lab
Jan. 9	Science! (or—why you don't actually hate science) Minerals, building blocks of rocks	No Lab
Jan. 16	Rocks and the Rock Cycle	Observation versus Interpretation <i>Introduction of class project</i>
Jan. 23	Plate Tectonics	Minerals (<i>Museum</i>)
Jan. 30	Useful geologic principles and geologic time I	Rocks and Plate Tectonics <i>Map check for project</i>
Feb. 6	Useful geologic principles and geologic time II Midterm 1 Feb. 10 (Friday)	Geologic Maps and Cross Sections

Part II: The History of the Earth

Feb. 13	Origin of the Earth and history of the atmosphere	Stratigraphy/Ancient Environments
Feb. 20	Geologic History of North America	Radiometric Dating <i>Rough draft of project</i>
Feb 27	Climate through time	Fossils
March 6	Climate through time, continued Midterm 2 March 8 (Wednesday)	Fossilization

Part III: Evolution and the History of Life

March 20	The E Word: Genetics, fossils, evidence for evolution	Cladistics
March 27	The Evolution of Complex Structures: is it possible? Darwin's Dilemma: Archean and Proterozoic Life	<i>Project Presentations I</i>
April 3	Evol. of Animals I: Evolution of Seafood Evol. of Animals II: Leaving the water--your inner fish	<i>Project Presentations II</i>
April 10	Evol. of Animals III: No, really...Birds are Dinosaurs Evol. of Animals IV: Your Cousins and You	Dinosaurs! (<i>Museum</i>)
April 17	Evolution of Plants	Mammal Human Evolution (<i>Museum</i>)
April 24	Mass Extinctions How Hollywood gets science right and (mostly) wrong	Lab Finals (in lab)

Students with Disabilities

Students requesting academic accommodations based on a disability are required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP when adequate documentation is filed. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me as early in the semester as possible, well before the first midterm. DSP is open Monday-Friday, 8:30-5:00. Their phone number is (213) 740-0776.

Academic Integrity

University policies on academic dishonesty are printed in SCAMPUS. Because cheating negatively affects everyone in the class, we will follow USC guidelines and report all academic misconduct. USC policies on cheating are strict and the minimum punishment is failure in the class and possible expulsion (see http://web-app.usc.edu/scampus/wp-content/uploads/2007/08/appendix_a.pdf). Please don't make us have to turn you in!