

Course Syllabus Summer Intersession 2015 San Diego Mesa College**GEOLOGY 100 - PHYSICAL GEOLOGY (6-week Online Lecture) – CRN: [45183](#)**

3 Lecture Hours: 3 Units; Letter Grade; Student may petition for Credit/No Credit (FT). Associate Degree Credit & transfer to CSU and/or private colleges and universities. UC Transfer Course List.

Meeting Times: June 15 through July 25 - Completely Online

Instructor: Robert [Ray](#) Rector

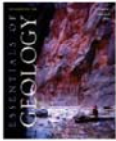
Contact: E-mail – geoprof@geoscirocks.com Phone# -760-942-9201

Office Hours: Online: Mondays: 6 pm to 7 pm

Advisory: ENGL 051 and ENGL 056 and MATH 032, each with a grade of "C" or better, or equivalent, or assessment Skill Levels W5/R5/M20.

Required Text: [Earth: An Introduction to Physical Geology](#) (11th Ed.) (Paperback or Electronic) by [Edward J. Tarbuck](#), [Frederick K Lutgens](#), [Dennis Tasa](#) Purchase online or from the college bookstore. Older 10th edition is also acceptable and recommended, due to much cheaper price.

11th Edition: ISBN 0321814061



11th Edition

Textbook Support Site Link: <http://www.pearsonhighered.com/educator/product/Earth-An-Introduction-to-Physical-Geology-11E/9780321814067.page>

Optional Electronic Learning Site Access: **Modified MasteringGeology** from Pearson Pub. (purchase through Blackboard course) MasteringGeology Support Site Link:

<http://www.pearsonmylabandmastering.com/northamerica/masteringgeologyandoceanography/>

Recommended Mineral and Rock Box Collection: [General Rock and Mineral Collection](#):

- A 24 specimens piece collection of igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic rocks, along with rock forming minerals. ID list included.



PREREQUISITES ADVISORY: This being an online course, it is advisable that you are computer literate, with a good working knowledge of the World Wide Web, e-mail, and word-processing. A high speed Internet connection is most advantageous.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Pursuit of understanding the physical characteristics of the earth as a whole and its past, present and future evolutionary processes. Unifying concepts such as plate tectonics, uniformitarianism, and geologic time will be studied. The causes of natural geologic hazards and their effects on people, society, and the environment will also be explored.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES: Upon completion of this course:

- 1) Students will display the ability to use proportional reasoning and graphical analysis to establish and analyze relationships between measured quantities. (Critical Thinking)
- 2) Students will display the ability to clearly communicate scientific principles, experimental results, and their implications. (Communication)
- 3) Students will display the ability to apply conceptual and mathematical tools to correctly predict the future state of physical systems. (Problem Solving)

ACCOMMODATION OF DISABILITY: A student with a verified disability may be entitled to appropriate academic accommodations, including the assistance of a note-taker in the classroom, and/or extended time for taking exams. Students with disabilities who may need academic accommodations should notify their professor immediately. For further information, please contact the Disabled Students Program and Services (DSPS) Office.

CLASS ENROLLMENT NOTES: ALL STUDENTS registered in this course prior to the start date MUST sign-in into the official Blackboard course page sometime on or before the FIRST DAY of class - Monday, June 15th, in order to stay registered in the course. The instructor reserves the right to drop any pre-registered student that did not sign-in on the first day of classes, so to make room for registering waitlist students. It is the student's responsibility to add, drop, or withdraw from classes before the deadlines stated in the class schedule. Petitions to add, drop, or withdraw after the deadline will not be approved without written proof of circumstances beyond the student's control, which made her/him unable to meet the deadline. Lack of money to pay fees is not considered an extenuating circumstance. Students anticipating difficulty in paying fees before the deadline should check with the Financial Aid Office about sources of funds or other alternatives for which they may be eligible.

The last day to drop this course and NOT receive a "W" is June 19, 2015. The last day to receive a refund of your enrollment fees is June 22, 2015. The last day to change from a letter

INSTRUCTOR'S ONLINE COURSE POLICIES

A. Independent direction, discipline and motivation of the student are critical to both learning course content and academic success in this online course. It will be up to you, the student, for staying up with homework assignments, quizzes, and exams. Make sure and consult the instructor and/or fellow classmates about anything in this course that you find difficult and/or confusing. There are no make-up exams or accepted late work, unless the student provides proof of some compelling reason for the make-up. It is the student's responsibility to contact me personally to forewarn me of any problem in completing the regular-scheduled exams or other coursework by their due dates. Business, pleasure, or being generally ill, is not a compelling reason. Being deadily sick, or having a death in the family is good reason.

B. Teaching, Learning and Evaluation Methods and Policy: This course is taught as a completely on-line course. That is, the communication between the instructor and the students, as well as among students, takes place via electronic means on the Internet. Note: while the communication will occur by electronic means, the most important sources of information for the student, besides the course website, are the textbook, rock and mineral hand-sample collection, streaming instructional videos, and the instructor's complimentary website.

C. Assignments, either for discussion on the bulletin board, or for completion and return to the instructor, will be posted on the course Blackboard site. Student contributions will be evaluated on both the quality (intelligent use of scientific terminology learned from using the textbook and other sources) and quantity (frequency and length) of comments. Reports from students, which are submitted directly to the instructor, will be evaluated based on quality (use of appropriate scientific vocabulary, for instance) and on rigor of the analysis. Testing will occur via the Internet, and tests will use a variety of formats (true-false, multiple choice, matching, short answer, and essay).

D. Timelines, Deadlines, etc.: Quizzes will be available each week and will appear with a due date. Availability for quizzes and exams prior to the finishing deadline is roughly three to four days. The research writing assignment will not be accepted or submitted following the due date. Note that because it sometimes happens that computer networks are down or unavailable, it is preferable to get assignments done a day or two earlier, so as to avoid trying to post an assignment on the very last minute of the due date, only to find that one's Internet Service Provider is down, for example. ALSO, as with any writing endeavor on a computer, YOU MUST BACK-UP ALL YOUR WORK on an external memory device, in timely increments. The excuse that you permanently lost your entire writing assignment file during a computer crash is not acceptable, because those sorts of mishaps are totally avoidable by doing regular backup.

STATEMENT OF RETENTION: Students, please discuss your plans to withdraw from class with

dishonesty are totally unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Violations of standards of academic honesty will be reported to the school dean for appropriate action. A detailed explanation of my plagiarism policy is found on the menu page for this course on the instructor's website. It is well worth your time to read my detailed policy if you have any concerns regarding plagiarism or cheating.

GRADING/EVALUATION

I. Quizzes (10 @ 30 points each) = 300 points

II. Exams (2 @ 150 points each) = 300 points

III. Assignments (2 total: greeting assignment (20 pts); research assignment (100 pts); assignments total = 120 points

V. Late Work Policy: No late work accepted - No exceptions.

VI. Extra Credit Policy: Extra credit is available - up to 40 points maximum. Last day to turn in extra credit work is July 22, 2015 - absolutely no EC work accepted after this date.

VII. Grading Scale: Your final grade is based purely on point percentage out of 720 pts:

100% -- 90% = A

89% -- 80% = B

79% -- 66% = C

65% -- 55% = D

Note: *Minor adjustments to the total course grade points may be made by instructor during the course period. If changes are made, the instructor will inform the students in a timely manner.*

ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES - LOGISTICS AND VITAL INFORMATION: Assessment of student learning outcomes for this class includes 10 quizzes, 2 exams, and 1 research writing assignment. Each assessment activity has a specific submittal due date. Make sure to keep a VERY CLOSE track of the class schedule of activities, so that you stay on track with your coursework, and get all your fully completed work turned in on time. I suggest printing out the class schedule and taping it somewhere around your work area that you can view it regularly.

- 1) Quiz completion dates are on most Wednesdays and Sundays of each week
- 2) Last day to drop with a "W" (withdraw) is Thursday July 9, 2015
- 3) Midterm exam completion date is Wednesday, July 8, 2015
- 4) Research writing assignment is due on Sunday, July 19, 2015
- 5) Final exam completion date is July 25, 2015

EXTRA CREDIT: There are several extra credit assignments available: they include the MMG HW, virtual fieldtrips, and a couple other research activities. Last day to turn in extra credit work is July 22nd, 2015; absolutely no EC work accepted after this date. Extra credit assignments are listed in the Extra Credit section. Students completing ALL the MMG assignments can earn up to 30 extra credit points. Up to 40 points of extra credit is allowed in this course.

STUDY MATERIALS FOR THIS COURSE:

There are several major sources of geological information at your disposal for successfully completing this course - they are: 1) your textbook, 2) the publisher's resource website that accompanies your textbook, including the Modified Mastering Geology package; 3) Earth Revealed Video Lessons available online from the instructor's personal website, and 4) the instructor's lecture notes and PowerPoint lectures also found at his personal website. The first and foremost course resource is your textbook and its accompanying website. Carefully read and study all assigned textbook reading prior to completing the associated quizzes, exams, and assignments. Note: the textbook has a complimentary textbook support site, which has additional resources and activities to help master the curriculum, which includes many good animations.

1) Textbook and Support Websites: http://wps.prenhall.com/esm_tarbuck_earth_11

2) Modified MasteringGeology from link with Pearson Publishing. This is optional - not required.

The totally optional Modified MasteringGeology (MMG) homework assignments were developed by geologists and earth science educators hired by the textbook publisher. The student is required to purchase an access code from Pearson Publishing in order to access and execute the homework activities. Purchase of the access code is done online through the Blackboard course site, but it is recommended that you take advantage of the free 2-week trial before purchasing. Completing ALL the MMG assignments will earn up to 30 extra credit points.

Note that there are several very helpful documents and videos that will get the student learn how to how to sign-up and pay for the MMG, and navigate and execute the MMG homework assignments. Below are links that the students should study before beginning their first MMG homework assignment:

http://geoscirocks.com/Get_Started_Flyer_Handout_MyLab-Mastering_Blackboard.pdf

<http://geoscirocks.com/MyLabBlackboardIntegrationforStudents.pdf>

http://247pearsoned.custhelp.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/10432/kw/blackboard%20learn

3) Personal Mineral and Rock Hand Sample Collection:

The recommended 24-piece hand-specimen collection of igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic rocks, along with rock forming minerals and included ID list will help you identify the most common mineral and rocks.

I have listed the Earth Revealed video series number(s) that correspond to the specific topic(s) of study each week within the class schedule next to the textbook chapter reading assignments.

4) Instructor's Personal Student Website: www.geoscicrocks.com

Click on the **Mesa Online** link to access all information pertaining directly to this course. Browse down the left-hand side menu for pertinent coursework information and resources.

The professor's online **lecture notes** and **PowerPoint presentations** provide a wealth of additional, useful information – carefully read and study the lecture notes and view the complimentary PowerPoint presentations prior to completing the associated quizzes, exams, and assignments. The lecture notes and presentations can be directly accessed from the instructor's personal website, which includes an even wider variety of other web-based resources that may be of personal interest. Additionally, the site has links to the "**Earth Revealed**" geology instructional video series – a set of 24 half-hour lessons that requires a high-speed connection to watch. I have listed the "Earth Revealed" video series number(s) that correspond to the specific topic(s) of study each week within the class schedule below the textbook chapter reading assignments.

San Diego Mesa Geology 100 Online Schedule – Summer 2015

Week	Textbook & ER Videos	Assignments, Fieldtrips, Quizzes & Exams	Due Date
1	Welcome Messages	Posting of Personal Greeting to Class	Mon 6/15
1	Course Syllabus	Quiz #1 - Syllabus	Wed 6/17
1	Ch. 1, 2; ER Videos 1 -6	Quiz #2 – Earth Overview and Plate Tectonics (Ch 1, 2)	Sun 6/21
2	Ch 3, 23; ER Video 12	Quiz #3 - Minerals and Resources (Ch 3, 23)	Wed 6/24
2	Ch 4, 5; ER Videos 13 & 14	Quiz #4 – Igneous Rocks, Magmas and Volcanoes (Ch 4 & 5)	Sun 6/28
3	Ch 6 -8; ER Videos 15 -18	Quiz #5 –Sedimentary and Weathering (Ch 6 & 7)	Wed 7/1
3	Ch 9; ER Videos 10 & 11	Quiz #6 – Metamorphic Rocks, Fossils, and Geologic Dating (Ch 8 & 9)	Sun 7/5
4	Exam Review –Ch 1-9, 23	Midterm Exam - (Chapters 1 through 9 and 23)	Wed 7/8
4	Ch 11, 12; ER Videos 8 & 9	Quiz #7 – Earthquakes (Ch 11 and 12)	Sun 7/12