GEOLOGY 104: PHYSICAL GEOLOGY

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Instructor: Dr. David Ozsvath
dozsvath@uwsp.edu

Office: Science D-332A
Phone: (715) 346-2287

Course Overview:

The University catalog describes Geology 104 as the "Introduction to study of minerals and rocks and processes that act upon and within the earth". For some students, this content is relevant to their major; for others, the fact that Geology 104 satifies the Natural Sciences General Education requirement is more important. Therefore, it is worth including the learning outcomes for Natural Sciences courses in this overview:

- Explain major concepts, methods, or theories in the natural sciences used to investigate the physical world.
- Interpret information, solve problems, and make decisions by applying natural science concepts, methods, and quantitative techniques.
- Describe the relevance of aspects of the natural sciences to their lives and society.

The textbook we will use for this course does a good job at helping students address the first and third Natural Sciences learning outcomes, but it provides little opportunity to apply what is learned to interpret information, solve problems, or make science-based decisions. For this reason, I have devised daily assignments to help address the second Natural Sciences learning oucome.

The online format allows students to work at their own pace; but because there are only 19 "class days" in which to cover 16 chapters of material, it is important to allocate time daily to work on the completion of quizzes and assignments. Because this is a 4-credit class, students should expect to spend between three to five hours per day on class-related activites (the time commitment will vary depending on the material that is covered in any given chapter of the textbook). A suggested schedule is included at the bottom of the third page of this sylabus.

Course Textbook:

The course is based on a free online textbook created by faculty at Salt Lake Community College (http://opengeology.org/textbook/). Each of the chapters begins with a list of learning outcomes, and there are quizzes imbedded within the reading to assess your comprehension of the material. As explained under Grading Policy, these quizzes will constitute 50 percent of your course grade.

Rights and Responsibilities:

Student rights and responsibilities, including the behaviors that are expected of both students and faculty in the classroom environment, are described in the **UW-SP Student Handbook**. Links to the various policies can be accessed online at: https://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Pages/handbook.aspx.

Grading Policy:

Your final grade in this class will be based on two types of assessments:

(1) **Quizzes imbedded within the online textbook** (worth **50 percent of final grade**)

There are a total of 420 quiz questions; each one is worth one point. Because the textbook permits you to repeat the quizzes until you are satisfied with the results, I anticipate that most everyone will earn the full 420 points, but that decision is up to you.

(2) **Assignments that I will distribute** (worth **50 percent of final grade**).

For most chapters in the textbook, I have created an assignment that highlights certain ideas or principles. These assignments also attempt to address the second learning outcome for a Natural Sciences GEP course (see above). I will grade these assignments and return them to you. Your average score on these assignments will be used to calculate your final grade.

The method that will be used to calculate your final grade is as follows:

Final Average = [(Average Quiz Score)(0.5)] + [(Average Assignment Score)(0.5)]

Final grades in the course will include the plus and minus option. In *no case* will an incomplete be granted for the course unless the student has an extended illness, lengthy hospital stay, or family emergency near the end of the course. The table below shows how the calculated final averages translate into final grades.

FINAL GRADES			
Grade	**Final Average**	**Grade**	**Final Average**
A	≥ 93 %	**C**	73 – 76 %
A-	90 – 92 %	**C-**	70 – 72 %
B+	87 – 89 %	**D+**	67 – 69 %
B	83 – 86 %	**D**	63 – 66 %
B-	80 – 82 %	**F**	≤ 62 %
C+	77 – 79 %		

Submitting Quiz Answers:

As you read through the online textbook, you will encounter subsection quizzes (Did I Get It?) and Chapter Review quizzes imbedded within the chapters. I am asking you to submit your results for these quizzes from each chapter by copying and pasting the responses you get from the textbook into a Word document that you send to me. I will email you an example on the first day of class.

Submitting Assignment Answers:

Assignments will be distributed as Word documents. Save these files as "Assignment X _student name" and type your answers directly into that document. Send the file back to me when you are finished. I will grade the assignment and return your file with my comments included.

Getting Help:

Students should contact me via email with any questions or problems that arise. I will endeavor to check my email periodically throughout the day (including weekends). If you would like to set up a Zoom meeting (for yourself or for the entire class), I'd be happy to do this; simply email me with a suggested time and I will schedule the meeting.

SUGGESTED CLASS SCHEDULE*

WEEK	TEXTBOOK QUIZZES	ASSIGNMENTS	DUE DATE
May 25th	Understanding Science	1	May 27th
	Plate Tectonics	2	May 28th
	Minerals	3	May 29th
	Igneous Processes and Volcanoes	4	May 30th
June 1st	Weathering, Erosion, Sedimentary Rocks	5	June 2nd
	Metamorphic Rocks		June 3rd
	Geologic Time	6	June 4th
	Earth History		June 5th
June 8th	Crustal Deformation and Earthquakes	7	June 9th
	Mass Wasting and Landslides	8	June 10th
	Water	9	June 11th
	Coastlines	10	June 12th
June 15th	Deserts	11	June 16th
	Glaciers and Glaciation	12	June 17th
	Global Climate Change		June 18th
	Energy and Mineral Resources	13	June 19th

*Due dates provide a suggested schedule to follow if a student wishes to spread the workload out over the 19 days of class time (does not include weekends). But you are free to work at whatever pace you choose, as long as the all of the quizzes and assignments are turned in by June 19th.