

GEOLOGY 106: EARTH HISTORY

Spring, 2020

Instructor: David Ozsvath
dozsvath@uwsp.edu

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

Course Overview:

Earth History is intended to provide students with an introductory overview of the earth's geologic development through time. Thus, it covers topics such as geologic time, radiometric dating, plate tectonics, paleontology, stratigraphy, and major events in the geologic past (e.g., ice ages). The learning objectives for the course are imbedded within the online textbook.

Some of the chapters in the online textbook include topics will include material that is not typically covered in an earth history course (e.g., igneous processes and rocks), but they provide a greater context for sections related to earth history. This also reinforces the basic understanding of earth science.

The online format allows students to work at their own pace; but there are assignments due at the end of each week to ensure that everyone stays on schedule. Because this is a one-credit class, students should expect to spend between two and three hours per week reading and completing assignments (the time commitment will vary from week to week depending on the assignment).

Course Textbook:

The course is based on a free online textbook created by faculty at Salt Lake Community College (<http://opengeology.org/textbook/>). Those who intend to teach earth science will find this resource to be very helpful. Another helpful web resource is <https://gotbooks.miracosta.edu/>, an online text book covering Geology, Earth Science, and Oceanography.

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:

Grades will be based on 14 assignments. The point values for each assignment will vary, but the total number of points that can be earned is **500 points**.

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, a lengthy hospital stay, or a family emergency near the end of the semester. A table on the next page shows how total point values translate into final grades.

FINAL GRADES					
Grade	Percentage	Points	Grade	Percentage	Points
A	≥ 93 %	≥ 465	C	73 – 76 %	363 – 382
A-	90 – 92 %	428 – 464	C-	70 – 72 %	348 – 362
B+	87 – 89 %	433 – 427	D+	67 – 69 %	333 – 347
B	83 – 86 %	413 – 432	D	63 – 66 %	313 – 332
B-	80 – 82 %	398 – 412	F	≤ 62 %	≤ 312
C+	77 – 79 %	383 – 397			

Assignments:

Most of the assignments involve reading through chapters in the online textbook and then taking the imbedded quizzes (including both the **Did I Get It?** and **Chapter Review** questions). Students must submit (by midnight of the Due Date) the correct answers for every question posed in these online quizzes. Each correct answer is worth one point, and the point values vary from chapter to chapter (Class Schedule below). Correct answers can simply be typed into a Word document, or a student could cut and paste their answers from the online textbook into a Word document.

The last three assignments (one of which spans two weeks) entail reading other online resources and answering questions that will be provided by the instructor. Because these assignments come at the end of the semester, they provide an opportunity for students to synthesize the information gleaned from the online textbook and also to better understand North America's complex geologic history. Because they serve as a final assessment, they are worth more points.

CLASS SCHEDULE

WEEK	ONLINE ASSIGNMENT	POINTS	DUE DATE
January 20 th	Understanding Science	25	January 24 th
January 27 th	Plate Tectonics	32	January 31 st
February 3 rd	Igneous Processes and Volcanoes	17	February 7 th
February 10 th	Weathering, Erosion, and Sedimentary Rocks	29	February 14 th
February 17 th	Metamorphic Rocks	26	February 21 st
February 24 th	Geologic Time	23	February 28 th
March 2 nd	Earth History	27	March 6 th
March 9 th	Crustal Deformation and Earthquakes	40	March 13 th
March 23 rd	Mass Wasting and Landslides	23	March 27 th
March 30 th	Glaciers and Glaciation	25	April 3 rd
April 6 th	Global Climate Change	21	April 10 th
April 13 th	Geologic History of North America	100	April 24 th
April 20 th			
April 27 th	Geologic History of Colorado	56	May 1 st
May 4 th	Geologic History of Wisconsin	56	May 8 th