Introduction to Geology
GEL 020
Syllabus Spring, 2011

Professor: Jacob O. Sewall
Office: Boehm Bldg. 422
Office hours: M: 2 – 3, T: 9:30 - 11
H: 9:30 – 11; 2 – 3

Tel.: 484-646-5864
Email: sewall@kutztown.edu
http://faculty.kutztown.edu/sewall

Class Meetings: Monday and Friday, 1:00 – 1:50 PM, Boehm Bldg. 145

Course Objectives: Introduction to Geology is just that, an introduction. Think of it as an inhabitant's guide to your physical planet. We will look at the origin, composition, and processes that have shaped our planet through time, and you will hopefully leave with not only an appreciation of our planet, but also a greater appreciation for science as a whole.

Textbook: There are two required texts for this course. The lecture text is: *Visualizing Geology* by Murck, Skinner, and Mackenzie. The laboratory text is: *Intro to Geology, GEL021, Lab Manual,* by Kurt Friehauf. The lecture text is in 'binder ready' format to reduce your costs.

Attendance/late policy: Lecture attendance is strongly recommended as the activities that take place in the classroom will be an important part of the information and, therefore, grade you receive in this course. Lab attendance is **required**. Make-up exams will be given only by prior arrangement or in the case of documented emergencies. Labs/homework assignments will be accepted late **only** by prior (e.g. before the day they are due!) arrangement.

E-mail policy: E-mail is becoming the primary mode of communication in many arenas today, e-mail correspondence, like all writing in this course, should be professional, clear, and grammatically correct. E-mail subject lines **must** contain the course number (**GEL 020**). The body of the e-mail should contain a greeting, a concise, clearly written description of the question, problem, or topic, and a closing. E-mail messages *that conform to this standard* will generally be answered within one business day.

Honor code and Special Needs: Strict accordance with the University policies concerning plagiarism, cheating, etc. is expected. Any student with special needs or circumstances is encouraged to meet with the instructor to discuss them.

Labs: There will be lab exercises each week except for the first week of classes.

Grading/Feedback:
There will be no curving of grades in this course. Assignments and their associated keys will set a standard and your grade will reflect how you measured against that standard, not your fellow classmates. It is, therefore, possible for everyone in the class to achieve and "A". Your final grade will be determined based on your total points: A = 93-100, A- = 90-92, B+ = 87-89, B = 83 – 86, B- = 80-82, C+ = 77-79, C = 70-76, D = 60-69, F = 0-59.

Tentative Grading Breakdown

Lecture = 50% of final Grade

Assignment	#	points each	total points	% of grade
Quizzes	13	30	360 + 30	36%
Final Exam	1	150	140	14%
Total			500	50%

Lecture quizzes will be a weekly affair beginning in the second week (week of January 24th) of the course. All lecture quizzes will be administered via D2L (https://desire2learn.kutztown.edu). Detailed quiz instructions will be available on D2L.

Lab = 50% of final Grade

Your lab grade and scoring will be determined by your lab instructor. Because different lab sections will have different instructors, scoring, and expectations: Lab grades will be normalized before they are averaged into the final course grade, so it does not matter which lab section you are in!

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Probable Topic Schedule Spring, 2011

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Lecture Topic	Course Week	Reading
Course Introduction	1	Chapter 1
The Scientific Method		
Origin of The Earth	2	
Inevitable Change		
Elements and Compounds		Chapter 2
Rocks and Minerals	3	
Relative Time		Chapter 3
Stratigraphy	3 and 4	
Absolute Age	4	
Plate Tectonics	4 and 5	Chapter 4
Earth's Interior	5	Chapter 5
Earthquakes		
Volcanoes	6	Chapter 6
Igneous Rocks		
Weathering	7	Chapter 7
Erosion		
Sediment		Chapter 8
Depositional Environments	8	
Sedimentary Rocks		
Folds	9	Chapter 9
Faults		
Orogens	9 and 10	
Metamorphic Rocks	10	Chapter 10
Surface Water	11	Chapter 11
Groundwater		
Oceans	12	Chapter 12

Coastlines		Chapter 12
The Atmosphere	13	
Deserts		Chapter 13
Glaciers		
Climate Change		
Fossil Fuels	14	Chapter 15
Renewable Resources		
Mineral Resources		
Final Exam		

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Lab Topic	**Course Week**	**Exercise**
No Lab	1	No Lab
Mineral Properties	2	1
Mineral Identification	3	2
Geologic Time	4	9
Plate Tectonics	5	Handout
Earthquakes	6	Handout
Igneous Rocks	7	3
Midterm Practical	8	
Sedimentary Rocks	9	5
Structural Geology	10	12
Metamorphic Rocks	11	7
Sedimentary Structures and Stratigraphy	12	6
Surface Processes	13	Handout
Final Practical	14	