Part 1: Course Structure

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Office Hours:
Posted on D2L Homepage
Please make an appointment for office hours so that I will know you are coming.

Ways to Contact Me and Get Questions Answered

In person during in class
In person during office hours
D2L chat (check D2L homepage for times)
D2L discussion board
Email
Phone

Very Brief Course Outline

1. The Solid Earth
   - Materials (minerals and rocks)
2. Solid Earth Processes
   - Earthquakes
   - Volcanoes
   - Mountain Building
3. Geologic Time
   - Determination of the age of ancient Earth events
4. The Ocean
5. The Atmosphere

Course Syllabus

Posted on the course D2L page
Homework: Read the syllabus! Pay particular attention to:
- Text requirement
- Attendance Policy and Expectations
- Test Requirements, including missed test policy
- Course Withdrawal Policy
- Final Grade Scale
Textbook, Lab Manual & Supplies

- Lab Manual – Check with your lab instructor
- Lab Kit – Check with your lab instructor

Attendance

Attendance is taken on an unannounced basis. Students reported to the MTSU Records Office as 'no longer attending' on Unofficial Withdrawal Rosters will receive an automatic F in the course.

Expectations

- Come to class!!!!!!!
  - On-time
  - Bring D2L lecture notes and study questions!
  - Stay until lecture is finished
- Check the course schedule at least twice every week for assignments, web notes, powerpoint slides, etc.
- Read Assignments and complete study problems, D2L self-study tests, etc.

Testing

- 4 tests – approximately 50 -75 multiple choice (100 points) on assigned lecture/reading/ study materials ; additional homework/class exercises may be assigned as partial test assignments.
- Test dates are posted on the schedule. Instructor reserves the right to change test dates.
- Test 1-3 – given during regular class time
- Test 4 – given during scheduled final exam period

Grading

- Each test = 25% of final grade
- Class average on midterms curved to 75%, if necessary
- Missed Midterm Tests (#1, #2, #3) = Average of two other midterm test scores
- Missed Test #4 = 0%; if excused = ave. of three midterm test scores
- Make-up tests are not given, except when missed due to MTSU athletic/academic event (see syllabus for missed test policy)
- More than one missed midterm test = automatic F

Grading

- Absolutely no course withdrawals (grade of W) granted after last day to withdraw unless student is withdrawing from all MTSU courses in which he/she is enrolled. (Department Chair’s rule, not mine!)
Part 2: Why are you here?

What is Earth Science all about?

Earth Science is not about memorizing a box full of rocks, minerals, or fossils!

Earth Science is about investigating how Earth works, and how Earth Scientists study the many processes which have determined Earth’s 4.6 billion year history and will determine Earth’s future.

So ….. Why are you enrolled in this course?

1. Fulfill General Education requirement?

2. The Earth Sciences are multidisciplinary, applying basic principles of chemistry, physics, biology, and mathematics to the study of Earth processes (i.e., you’ll learn about many different sciences).

3. The global economy is primarily driven by advancements in science (i.e., your future job is probably science-dependent).

So ….. Why are you enrolled in this course?

4. Develop understanding of scientific investigation methodologies and problem solving techniques

5. Acquire knowledge of Earth history and an understanding how Earth works.

6. Become a better Earth Citizen about current Earth issues

So ….. Why are you enrolled in this course?

7. You want to make Al Gore proud!?

What contemporary issues/events are related to course topics?

Price and availability of natural resources:
- Oil
- Natural Gas
- Metals
- Coal
- Water

Environment:
- Global Warming
- Drought
- Waste Disposal
- Air and Water Pollution

Natural Disasters:
- Earthquakes
- Tsunamis
- Hurricanes
- Tornadoes
- Floods
- Fires

Social:
- Urban Planning
- Property Values
- Theory of Evolution
- War
What do Earth scientists do?

Major Employers of Earth Scientists

- Petroleum /Natural Gas Industry (ave. entry-level salary ~ $80,000/yr according to AAPG)
- Mining Industry
- Environmental Consulting
- National Research Laboratories (ORNL, LANL)
- State Agencies (Geological Surveys, Environmental Protection, Transportation)
- K-12 Education
- Higher Education (teaching, research, public service)

Related Employment Fields

- Legal (Environmental Law, Energy Law)
- Investment/Business Administration (Environment, Energy, Mining)
- Insurance (Natural Disasters Risk Assessment)
- Health (toxicity of metals, minerals, airborne pollutants, water-borne pollutants)
- Engineering (Road, Bridge and Building Construction)
- Journalism (Science Writers, Weather Forecaster)

Homework

- Logon Pipeline
- Enter Course D2L Page
  - Read Syllabus !!!
  - Explore Course D2L Applications
    - Welcome Message
    - Schedule
    - Discussion Board
    - Chat
    - Quizzes

Source: American Association of Petroleum Geologists