

GRAYSON COUNTY COLLEGE

Course Syllabus

Course Information

GEOL 1304/1104 Historical Geology

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:

Instructor: Dusty Girard Phone: 903-415-2595 Office: Science Building, S121

Email: girardd@grayson.edu Dept. Phone: 903-463-8702

Office Hours/Campus: by appt.

Feel free to email me at any time with any questions or concerns. I check my email daily and will respond as soon as possible. If you send an email on Friday afternoon you may not receive a response until Monday. Do not wait until something is due to let me know you are having problems, as this may result in a loss in grades. If you are having technical difficulties, you may want to make note of an outside email in case you are unable to contact me through the Canvas mail system, girardd@grayson.edu. Please specify your NAME, COURSE and school in the email.

Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions - None

Course Description – from college catalog

GEOL 1304 Historical Geology (3-0-3). Study of the concepts and principles of geologic time. Fossil identification, relative dating, and geologic processes throughout Earth's history. The past and current views on evolutionary processes using geologic evidence. Concurrent enrollment in GEOL 1104 is mandatory. (R)

Student Learning Outcomes

- Classify and interpret depositional environments using sedimentary rocks and fossils.
- Taxonomically classify samples of geologically important fossil groups and use them to interpret the age of rocks on the Geologic Time Scale.
- Apply relative and numerical age-dating techniques to construct geologic histories including the correlation of stratigraphic sections.
- Reconstruct past continental configurations.
- Integrate multiple types of data to interpret Earth history.
- Describe how the application of the scientific method has led to our current understanding of Earth history.

- Explain the historical development of Geology as a science and how it was influenced by early interpretations of fossils and the theory of evolution.
- Communicate how principles of relative and numerical age dating have been used to develop the Geologic Time Scale.
- Describe the processes involved in the formation and differentiation of the Earth and identify major milestones in the physical evolution of the planet.
- Identify the major milestones in the evolution of life from its initial inorganic stages, through development of the major animal and plant groups, to mass extinctions.
- Explain how rocks and fossils are used to interpret ancient environments.
- Identify the major tectonic events in the geologic evolution of North America.

Required Textbooks (ISBN # included) and Materials

Lab Manual: Insights: A Laboratory Manual for Physical and Historical Geology, 5th Ed., Ossia ISBN: 978-146-525-9165.

No textbook for lecture – Open Resource Materials will be presented in Class and Canvas.

Outline of Topics Covered

Understanding the Earth, General Concepts

Rocks and Minerals

Structure

Geologic time: Concepts and Principles

Absolute Dating

Relative Dating

Exam/Project Unit I

Evolution

Fossils

Early Earth

Precambrian Life

Paleozoic Earth History

Paleozoic Life History

Exam/Project Unit II

Mesozoic Earth and Life History

Cenozoic Earth and Life History

Wrap up, geologic concept reviews

Final Exam/Project

Proposed dates (may change depending on class) – Lab Exam I & Lab Exam II

Online Discussion Schedule:

Discussion 1 & Reply

Discussion 2

Discussion 3

Discussion 4

Discussion 5

Extra Credit

Lab Schedule: As completed – Announced in class.

In case of inclement weather, emergency closings, or other unforeseen disruptions to scheduled classes, student must log onto their Canvas accounts for directions on where or how to continue their coursework.

* With the exception of the Final Exam, the test dates may be changed.

IMPORTANT DATES :

First Class Day

Certification Date

Final Drop/Withdrawal Deadline

Final Exams

*Note you must either check in (attend class) with the instructor and successfully complete Assignment 1 on or before the Certification Date to be counted as attending on the official roll.

Methods of Evaluation

Three major examinations will be given throughout the semester. Dates of the examinations are in the syllabus, but may be changed if necessary. **There are no makeup exams!** If you know you will be unable to take a test during the assigned time, contact me prior to the test to make arrangements to take the test at another time.

Exams may consist of multiple choice, short answer, matching, fill in the blank, and/or discussion questions.

GRADING POLICY:

Grades will be calculated in the following manner:

Discussions (5 @ 10 each)	50 pts
Lecture Exams (3 @ 100 each)	300 pts
Lab Quizzes (5 @ 6 each)	30 pts

Lab Completion (5 @ 2 each)	20 pts
Lab Exams (2 @ 100 each)	200 pts
Total Points	600 pts

To calculate your grade take your points divided by the total points then multiply by 100:

Your Points/600*100. Final grades will be posted on Canvas.

Course & Instructor Policies

Coming to class and completing labs is essential for student success. Due to the weekly changing of lab materials and set-up, lab work may not be available after the completion date. In the event that a class is missed, it is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor immediately and any work which the instructor allows to be made up must be submitted before the next class meeting. Late work not previously approved by the instructor will not be accepted. Do NOT show up to class the following week and expect to make up missed work without gaining prior authorization. There will extra credit assignments available during the semester. The maximum amount of extra credit points for the semester is 10. Please do not ask as no other extra credit will be available.

All work submitted by a student should be in the student's own words. This includes discussion posts, lab reports, and quiz answers.

Class Attendance

Academic success is closely associated with regular classroom attendance and course participation. All successful students, whether on campus or online, are expected to be highly self-motivated. All students are required to participate in courses regularly and are obliged to participate in class activities and complete and submit assignments following their professors' instructions. Students taking courses during compressed semester time frames such as mini-mester, summer sessions, and mid-semester should plan to spend significantly more time per week on the course. Responsibility for work missed because of illness or school business is placed upon the student. **In accordance with the College's Developmental Education Plan, students withdrawn from their only developmental course may be withdrawn from all academic courses.** In addition, students' eligibility to receive financial aid or live in a College dormitory can be affected by withdrawal from courses. When administrative withdrawal occurs, any tuition refund would be made in accordance with state regulations.

Student Conduct & Discipline

Students are expected to maintain classroom decorum that includes respect for other students and the instructor. Prompt and regular attendance is required. Students must not disrupt the class or leave before class has been released. Students must maintain an attitude that seeks to maximize educational opportunities in the classroom. Failure to comply with proper classroom decorum will result in the student being dropped from the class.

All cell phones and other electronic devices must be turned off before entering the classroom. If you have an emergency and need to take a call during class, you must inform the instructor before the

beginning of class. Turn your ringer to vibrate, and when your call comes in, pick up all of your belongings and leave the classroom. You may return to class the next time the class meets. In the event that I see your cell phone out during class, your cell phone rings during class or I catch you leaving class to answer your cell phone, I will **deduct 10 points** from your next lecture test. Each violation of this policy will result in a 10 point deduction on the next lecture test. Any grade reduced because of a violation of the cell phone policy will not be replaced.

Under no circumstances will any electronic devices be allowed in the classroom during a test.

No food or open drinks allowed in the lab.

Defacing College Property

Anyone caught defacing property or damaging equipment in the lab or lecture room will be responsible for cleaning, repairing or replacing the defaced property or damaged equipment. The individual will receive a zero (0) for the next lecture test. A grade of zero received for defacing property cannot be replaced. Defacing property includes, but is not limited to, writing, marking or scratching on the tables, tabletops, chairs, cabinets, counter tops, shelving or walls.

Academic Integrity

The faculty expects from its students a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work.

Scholastic Dishonesty, any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, aiding another student during an examination, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

Plagiarism, especially from the web, from portions of papers for other classes, and from any other source is unacceptable and will be dealt with under the college's policy on plagiarism (see GCC Student Handbook for details). Grayson County College subscribes to turnitin.com, which allows faculty to search the web and identify plagiarized material.

Violation of academic integrity will result in a zero for the first offence and a second offence will result in a failing grade, "F" for the course.

Copyright Notice

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted materials, including music and software. Copying, displaying, reproducing, or distributing copyrighted works may infringe the copyright owner's rights and such

infringement is subject to appropriate disciplinary action as well as criminal penalties provided by federal law. Usage of such material is only appropriate when that usage constitutes "fair use" under the Copyright Act.

Withdrawal from Class

The administration of this institution has set deadlines for withdrawal from any college-level courses. These dates and times are published in that semester's schedule of classes. Administrative procedures must be followed. It is the student's responsibility to handle student initiated withdrawal requirements from any class. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of "F" in a course if you choose not to attend the class once you are enrolled (see GCC College Catalog for details).

Disability Services

The goal of Disability Services is to provide students with disabilities educational opportunities equal to those of their non-disabled peers. Disability Services is located in room SC 115 in the Student Success Center.

The contact information for the Office of Disability Services is:

Jeffri Hodge
(903) 463-8751 (voice or TTY)
hodgej@grayso.edu

If you anticipate issues related to the format or requirements of this course, please meet with the Coordinator of Disability Services. The Coordinator is available to discuss ways to ensure your full participation in the course. If you determine that formal, disability-related accommodations are necessary, it is very important that you be registered with Disability Services to notify them of your eligibility for reasonable accommodations. Disability Services can then plan how best to coordinate your accommodations.

It is the student's responsibility to notify his or her professors of the need for such an accommodation. Disability Services provides students with letters to present to faculty members to verify that the student has a disability and needs accommodations. Individuals requiring special accommodation should contact the professor after class or during office hours.

Financial Aid

Effective July 1, 2000 students receiving Title IV funds (Pell, Federal Grants, and Student Loans), who subsequently withdraw from classes, will be required to return a portion of the federal financial aid received. Only the percentage of aid earned (determined by the percentage of time attended) will be eligible for retention on the student's behalf. Any aid that is not earned must be returned to its source. If there is a student account balance resulting from these adjustments, the student is responsible for payment. Further details can be obtained from the Office of Financial Aid.

Drop Rule

Under section 51.907 of the Texas Education Code, “an institution of higher education may not permit a student to drop more than six courses, including any course a transfer student has dropped at another institution of higher education.” This statute was enacted by the State of Texas in spring 2007 and applies to students who enroll in a public institution of higher education as first-time freshmen in fall 2007 or later. Any course that a student drops is counted toward the six-course limit if (1) the student drops a course after census date or (2) the student is not dropping the course in order to withdraw from the institution. Some exemptions for good cause could allow a student to drop a course without having it counted toward this limit, but it is the responsibility of the student to establish that good cause before the drop. Students with questions should contact the Counseling Office or the Office of Admissions & Records for more information before dropping a course!

Grayson County College is not responsible for illness/injury that occurs during the normal course of classroom/lab/clinical experiences.

These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.