

**GEOL 10100**  
**Introduction to Geology**  
**Classroom: 714 HW**  
**Mondays and Thursdays 9:45 to 11:00**  
**714 Hunter West**

**Fall 2017**

**Instructor:** Randy Rutberg

**Office location:** Hunter North room 1041 (10<sup>th</sup> floor)

**Email** (preferred means of contact): [rrutberg@hunter.cuny.edu](mailto:rrutberg@hunter.cuny.edu). In order for me to respond to your emails as efficiently as possible please adhere to the following instructions: (1) Include the course name and number in your subject line. (2) Include your entire name as it appears in CUNYfirst in your email (3) Email me from your @myhunter account. I try to answer all emails within 24 hours. Allow for a 48 hour delay on the weekends. Please be sure to write a complete email, including a salutation and a signature.

**Office hours:** Mondays and Thursdays 11:15 p.m. to 12:15 p.m. and by appointment.

**Office phone:** 212 772 5326

**Brief description/purpose of course:** This course will be of interest to any student who wants to learn more about the Earth as well as to those contemplating a major in Geography or Environmental Studies. The lecture meets twice per week for 1.25 hours. One meeting is in a traditional lecture setting, the other is “virtual” This will be explained further below\*. The lecture will cover the geophysical properties of the Earth, plate tectonics, , earthquakes, volcanism, metamorphism, crustal deformation, geologic time, geological resources and natural and anthropogenic global change.

Under the Hunter Core Requirements this course satisfies D, Scientific World. This course also fulfills the Stage 2 group E of the General Education Requirement (GER). Combined with PGEOG14100, Weather and Climate Laboratory or GEOL 10100, Geology Laboratory, this course satisfies the core requirements for the “new” geography major. For Psychology majors, the course, combined with GEOL 10100, satisfies one of the laboratory science requirements

The main goals for this course are to:

- (1) Teach you key foundational concepts about the Earth and the methodology of science.
- (3) Introduce you to a fascinating subject area that might influence your academic and career path.

\*This course is a partial online (hybrid) course. The lecture portion will be partially online using Blackboard (BB) and Tophat, an online learning platform and in class student response system. Approximately one half of the scheduled meeting times will be virtual classes. The traditional lecture in the class room will be on Thursdays (or days scheduled as Thursdays at Hunter). Virtual classes are scheduled on most Mondays. The online learning portion of the course is intended to provide students with structured materials including podcasts, homework questions and readings that are designed to enhance student learning. The traditional lecture portion of the class will cover key material that builds on the fundamental concept learned in the virtual lectures.

**Required textbook(s):** In order to minimize text book costs, several copies of both texts will be on reserve in the Hunter College library.

*A Literary Companion to Introductory Geology*, first edition, edited by Randye Rutberg and Shruti Philips (information to be provided here, not yet available)

Recommended: If you would like the support of a text book, I recommend that you purchase, *Essentials of Geology*, 5<sup>th</sup> edition (or an earlier edition) by Stephen Marshak. It is an excellent book. This book will also be on reserve in the Hunter College Library. Note that most introductory text books cover this material. If you can obtain an inexpensive used copy to support your learning, it is worth the investment.

### **Required Digital Technology:**

TopHat student response system

Refer to the link below for information about Top Hat and to enroll:

<https://tophat.com/learning-solutions/students/>

The pricing for Top Hat is as follows:

Single semester \$26

Full year \$38

Life Time \$75

Once you pay for a membership you are entitled to use TopHat for as many courses as you need. There are a variety of courses at Hunter College that use this technology. Consider whether any of your current or future courses will use this technology before you decide which option to purchase.

### **This course will cover:**

- How geologists apply the scientific method to arrive at major scientific breakthroughs including Plate Tectonic Theory.
- Methodologies employed by geoscientists to study the geophysical properties of the Earth
- Igneous processes an relationship to Plate Tectonics
- Metamorphic rocks, mechanisms of mountain building and related geologic structures and phenomena
- Sedimentary rocks, geologic time and a brief history of Earth
- The formation and distribution of hydrocarbons
- Natural and anthropogenic global change

### **Expected Student Outcomes:**

At the end of the course the successful student shall be able to:

Describe Plate Tectonic Theory and how it relates to the distribution of geologic phenomena

Describe the scientific method and the common tools applied in geology

Recall geophysical properties of the Earth

Describe metamorphism and crustal deformation

Describe sedimentary rocks, geologic time and Earth History

Understand natural and anthropogenic climate change

**Attendance:** You are expected to come to every traditional class meeting (once per week) and take detailed notes. You will receive credit for class participation via TopHat. Lecture powerpoints will not be posted. You are expected to check Blackboard at least twice per week. In addition, you must complete weekly online assignments via Tophat.

### **Course evaluation/grading:**

**Exams:** This course will have three exams. Each exam will cover 4-5 topics. Exams will not be cumulative. They will be multiple choice. Exam questions will cover the material in the online and traditional lecture meetings. Many will be based on questions asked in class and on homework questions.

**Exam procedures:** All exams are required. Make-up exams will not be given. I will drop the lower of the first two exams. All exams will be multiple choice and must be completed in pencil. You must write your name on the exam sheet and bubble in your name, last name first. If you do not do this, you risk your exam not being graded and receiving a zero. If you take an exam and your grade does not appear on BB within one week of the exam date, you must notify immediately or come to my office hours. If you do not, you risk receiving a zero on the exam.

**Homework:** This course will have homework for each Virtual Class meeting. The homework will be online, using TopHat and will test key ideas presented in the associated podcast.

In addition, most virtual classes will have an assigned reading from “A Literary Companion to Introductory Geology” (LC on schedule). Students will be required to comment and discuss the readings on a group discussion board to which they will be randomly assigned.

**Participation:** Attendance in lecture is required and will be accounted for through class participation. Real time questions will be asked and answered using Tophat, an online student response system that can be used via phone, tablet or computer. Participation will count for 15 % of the course grade.

### **Course Grading Summary:**

Homework assignments: 40%

Exam 1 or 2: 15%

Final exam: 15%

Discussion Board: 15%

Class participation\*: 15%

\*Class participation will be calculated from attendance and correctly answering 5-10 questions (using TopHat) during each in class lecture meeting. Partial credit will be given for incorrect answers.

Opportunities for Extra Credit (up to 5 points will be added to your final grade, equivalent to a bump of 1/3 of a letter grade, i.e. going from a B to a B+). In order to obtain EC, you must obtain my approval of your topic and schedule your presentation ahead of time.

- 1) Lead a discussion (5-10 minutes) about one of the assigned articles
- 2) Lead a discussion (5-10 minutes) about a recent scientific discovery or phenomenon that relates to the course material.

### **About examinations and grades**

- a) This course is designed so that if you attend class and complete all of the homework you will pass. Note that the exams count for 30% of the grade, so it is possible to pass the class even if you are a poor exam taker.
- b) Grades follow Hunter’s grading system: <http://catalog.hunter.cuny.edu/content.php?catoid=15&navoid=1433>
- c) Examinations are 1 hour and 15 minutes for the mid-term and 2 hours for the final exam and must be turned in promptly. If you arrive late, you lose that time.
- d) Make-up exams are ONLY available in extreme cases, and with medical (or other) forms that confirm the absence. If you miss an exam and have a D or F average in the course at that point, you fail the course irrespective of the reason you missed it.

- e) I will automatically agree to the CR/NC option only if the conditions stated in the CR/NC form are satisfied: all course work has been completed and you earned grades such that you accumulate at least 50 points total in the course. Students on probation are not eligible for this option. Students must make an appointment to discuss this option with me at least one week before the final exam. Requests for CR/NC as a final grade will not be accepted during or after the final exam.

**Classroom policies:** There is no texting permitted in the classroom. Earphones are not to be worn in the classroom (either on ears or around neck) strongly suggest that you take notes by hand. You are responsible for doing all online assignments in a timely fashion, i.e. by the due date listed. I do not grant extensions except under the most extreme of circumstances. You are allowed to miss one assignment without penalty. If you complete all assignments, the extra will count as extra credit. Please remember that access to the internet occasionally fails to work for many reasons beyond your or my control. *I reserve the right to alter or add topics and assignments as needed.*

**Cell Phone Policy:** Out of respect for preserving a positive learning environment, all cell phones, beepers, and other portable noise-making devices must be SILENCED for the duration of the class period.

**Incident Weather and other unknowns:** If circumstances prevent me, the professor, from reaching campus on a class day I will notify the entire class using your hunter e-mail account. On snowy days, please check your e-mail an hour or so before our scheduled class time.

## HELPFUL INFORMATION

**My Teaching Philosophy:** My goal in teaching is to help you learn the material and become responsible professionals. I also strive to share my enthusiasm for this subject and make this class an enjoyable one. My approach to teaching involves conveying key information and concepts as well as encouraging discourse in the classroom. Your participation greatly enhances the classroom environment. I understand and respect individual differences in learning and do my best to promote learning in the classroom by working with individual differences rather than against them. At the same time, I wish to impart technical skills and a sense of responsibility by encouraging you to play the role of professionals in the classroom.

I expect you to put your best effort in this course. This involves participating in the in-class exercises, reading the assigned material, doing the homework and preparing for quizzes and exams.

**Lecture:** I will spend part of the lecture time explaining the key concepts of geology. You are expected to devote the Virtual Lecture to reviewing the podcast, answering the homework questions, and preparing and posting associated discussion points. (Note: as a general rule of thumb for a college level course, you are expected to spend three hours outside the classroom for each hour in the class room.)

**Finally:** It is important to start with a good study habit. Consistency is the key. Forming study groups is extremely helpful. Use my time and any resource available to you throughout the semester. Make progress steadily as the material in this course cannot be understood the night before the exam. Concentrate on understanding rather than 'regurgitating'. Put out your best effort every day!

The following are useful tips to do well in this or any class:

- Attend class and take detailed notes. Sketch the relevant diagrams.
- Re-write your lecture notes as soon as possible after class. This will allow you to fill in the details still fresh in your memory, and prepare questions for the next time the class meets.
- "Attend" each virtual class on the day it is scheduled. Complete the work and meet the learning goals each week.
- Carefully study the diagrams you have made and those given in the virtual class.

**Hunter College Policy on Academic Integrity:** Hunter College regards acts of academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, cheating on examinations, obtaining unfair advantage, and falsification of records and official documents) as serious offenses against the values of intellectual honesty. The College is committed to enforcing the CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity and will pursue cases of academic dishonesty according to the Hunter College Academic Integrity Procedures.

**ADA Policy:** In compliance with the American Disability Act of 1990 (ADA) and with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Hunter College is committed to ensuring educational parity and accommodations for all students with documented disabilities and/or medical conditions. It is recommended that all students with documented disabilities (Emotional, Medical, Physical, and/or Learning) consult the Office of AccessABILITY, located in Room E1214B, to secure necessary academic accommodations. For further information and assistance, please call: (212) 772- 4857 or (212) 650-3230.

### **Hunter College Policy on Sexual Misconduct**

In compliance with the CUNY Policy on Sexual Misconduct, Hunter College affirms the prohibition of any sexual misconduct, which includes sexual violence, sexual harassment, and gender-based harassment retaliation against students, employees, or visitors, as well as certain intimate relationship. Students who have experienced any form of sexual violence on or off campus (including CUNY-sponsored trips and events) are entitled to the rights outlined in the Bill of Rights for Hunter College.

**Sexual Violence:** Students are strongly encouraged to immediately report the incident by calling 911, contacting NYPD Special Victims Division Hotline (646-610-7272) or their local police precinct, on contacting the College's Public Safety Office (212-772-4444)

**All Other Forms of Sexual Misconduct:** Students are also encouraged to contact the College's Title IX Campus Coordinator, Dean John Rose ([jtrose@hunter.cuny.edu](mailto:jtrose@hunter.cuny.edu) or 212-650-3262) of Colleen Barry ([colleen.barry@hunter.cuny.edu](mailto:colleen.barry@hunter.cuny.edu) or 212-772-4534) and seek complimentary services through the Counseling and Wellness Services Office, Hunter East 1123.

**CUNY Policy on Sexual Misconduct Link:** <http://www.cuny.edu/about/administration/offices/la/Policy-on-Sexual-Misconduct-12-1-14-with-links.pdf>

**Schedule of topics and readings:** Below is a schedule of class meetings, topics and reading assignments. Please note that the readings and assignments are due on the dates indicated. A detailed schedule for readings, activities and assignments is given on the course BB page. The BB page is organized by date. Each class meeting date given on the syllabus has an associated folder that contains readings, additional materials and in some cases an assignment. It is imperative that you go through each folder and complete the work as scheduled on the syllabus so that you do not fall behind in the course. This course is carefully structured so that you learn the material efficiently. The professor reserves the right to change the schedule and/or assignments as necessary. Any such changes will be disseminated through Blackboard.

**Lecture Schedule:** “LC” refers to “A Literary Companion to Introductory Geology”. Assignments will be posted on the course Tophat page.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Class Type</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Homework</b>
8/28	Traditional	Introduction	Syllabus	Read syllabus
8/31	Traditional	Plate Tectonics		
9/7	Traditional	Plate Tectonics		
9/4	No lecture	Labor Day College Closed		
9/11	Virtual	Plate Tectonics	View podcast LC: Chp 1	Assignment 1, DB
9/14	Traditional	Geophysical Properties of the Earth		
9/18	Virtual	Earthquakes	View podcast LC: Chp 4	Assignment 2, DB
9/19 (M at HC)	Traditional	Earthquakes		
9/25	Virtual	Earthquakes	View podcast LC: Chp 7	Assignment 3,
9/28	Traditional	EXAM 1		
10/2	Virtual	Igneous Processes	View podcast LC: Chp 5	Assignment 4,DB
10/5	Traditional	Igneous Processes		
10/12	Traditional	Volcanism		
10/16	Virtual	Sedimentary Processes	View podcast LC: Chp 6	Assignment 5,DB
10/19	Traditional	Sedimentary Processes		
10/23	Virtual	Geologic Time	View podcast LC: Chp 10	Assignment 6, DB
10/26	Traditional	Geologic Time		
10/30	Virtual	Earth History	View podcast LC: Chp 2	Assignment 7, DB
11/2	Traditional	Exam II		
11/6	Virtual	Earth History	View podcast LC: Chp 1	Assignment 8, DB
11/9	Traditional	Metamorphism		
11/13	Virtual	Metamorphism	View podcast LC: Chp 10	Assignment 9, DB
11/16	Traditional	Mountain Building		
11/20	Virtual	Mountain Building	View podcast LC: Chp 9	Assignment 10, DB
11/23	No lecture	Thanksgiving – College Closed		
11/27	Traditional	Earth’s Resources		
11/30	Virtual	Pleistocene	View podcast LC: Chp 13	Assignment 11, DB
12/4	Traditional	Pleistocene		
12/7	Traditional	Global Change		
12/11	Traditional	Global Change		
<b>12/14 (Th)</b>	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>	<b>11:45-1:45 714 HW</b>	