A volcano erupts in Japan; an earthquake rattles Mexico City; a tsunami hits an island in Indonesia; a landslide destroys a village in Greece; a meteorite hurls through space and crashes in the Pacific Ocean. All these and many more are natural phenomena which continuously shape our planet and have a profound effect on the lives of millions of people worldwide. We live on earth! We are involved in many aspects of our planet on a daily basis. Our understanding of these phenomena is necessary in order to make informed choices.


Note: Older editions or used copies of this book may be used for the course. Students may check with Amazon or eBay for affordable copies of the text.

Blackboard: All slides used for each lecture class will be posted on blackboard prior to the class, under course materials.

Course description: Fundamentals of geology is the study of the physical aspects of our planet. The goal of this course is to provide the students with a basic understanding of the forces continuously shaping the surface of our planet and the influence they have on our environment, so that their appreciation and interest in our planet is heightened. At the same time, this course provides a strong fundamental background for students who want to pursue more advanced geology courses.

Course Objectives: The objective of this course will be to introduce students to the major Earth features, materials, structures and processes. Upon successful completion of this course, the students will be able to:

• Understand the origin and formation of the Earth
• Understand materials, processes, systems, and history of the Earth
• Understand where and how natural phenomena such earthquakes, and volcanoes, occur
• Describe and discuss the consequences of earth-people interactions
Demonstrate mastery of basic lab skills: identifying minerals and rocks; inferring rock origin from examination of specimens; reading, drawing and interpreting contour maps and profiles; using terrestrial coordinates

Be able to communicate their geologic knowledge to others

**Grading procedure:** There will be three lecture examinations based on lecture and reading assignments. Each exam counts for 20% of the student’s final grade. Makeup exams will not be given. In the event that one regular exam is missed (not the final) the student's lowest exam grade will be assigned as the score for the missed exam. All students must take the final exam. In any event, if missing an exam is unavoidable (i.e., for medical reasons), I must be notified prior to the exam, if possible.

There will be three lab quizzes each of which counts for 10% of your final grade. In addition, there will be a museum field trip which also counts for 10% of your final grade.

The university rules concerning grading will be strictly followed. Under no circumstances will a student be allowed "extra credit" to raise his/her grade.

**Attendance:** Lecture attendance is recommended (required for freshmen). In addition to information provided in the text, extra material and occasional pertinent films may be shown and discussed. Examinations will include questions on all of the above.

Lab attendance is **required!!!** A maximum of two absences is allowed without any consequences to the student's grade.

**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 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.
Course Schedule, Topic Outline and Exams: **

First day of classes: Tuesday January 29, 2013. Last day of classes: Thursday May 16, 2013

To keep yourself informed with important days such as Holidays/Other non-meeting dates/Days when classes follow a different schedule, please consult the Hunter College academic calendar found using the following URL:

http://registrar.hunter.cuny.edu/pdf_folders/Academic%20Calendars/Fall%202012/Academic%20Calendar%20Fall%202012%20-%20Spring%202013.pdf

1. Course Introduction.
2. Earth Materials (Minerals; Igneous, Sedimentary and Metamorphic Rocks).
   EXAM 1 (Tuesday, March 5)
   EXAM 2 (Thu April 18)
   EXAM 3 (Final, during final exam period: Tuesday May 21 @ 5:20pm)

You will find the Fall 2012 final exam schedule at the following URL:


Lab Topic Outline:

1. Mineral Identification
2. Rock Identification (Igneous, Sedimentary, Metamorphic)
3. Topographic maps

**Each topic will be followed by a quiz, the date of which will be determined by the lab instructor. In addition, there will be a Museum of Natural History field trip (TBA), accompanied by a report.

** This schedule may be altered slightly during the course of the semester.

"Incomplete Work in Course: Incompletes for this course are only given under the most extraordinary and documented circumstances. When a student FOR VALID REASON (S) does not complete the work assigned in a course (including the final exam, papers, etc.) and in the view of the instructor still has a reasonable chance to pass the course, the student shall be given the grade IN (incomplete). The student must explain the reason to the instructor or, in the absence of the instructor, to the department chair and arrange a schedule for making up the missing course work. These steps must be taken as soon as possible and no later than the end of the second week of the following semester. The student shall then be given the opportunity to complete the course without penalty beyond previously established penalties for lateness." Students averaging “C” or above are eligible to request an incomplete grade.