GEOS 101: GENERAL GEOLOGY
FALL 2016

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Hannah Aird
E-MAIL: haird@csuchico.edu

OFFICE: Physical Sciences 219
WWW ACCESS: Blackboard Learn

OFFICE HOURS: Mon 9am – 10am, Thurs 10:30 – 11:30am, by appointment – email me!

CLASS TIME AND LOCATION: MW 2:00 – 2:50pm in AYRS 106

LABS: As scheduled! If you miss lab this first week you will be dropped.

THINGS YOU’LL NEED:
- GEOS 101 Lab manual, for purchase from AGES (the Association of Geological and Environmental Sciences) club during lab of weeks 1 and 2. Manuals are $20 and payable by cash. You must bring this to your lab section every week.
- iClicker 2. You may purchase a new or used iClicker 2 from the bookstore, or you may borrow one for the semester from me. Registration of your iClicker is expected before class on Monday August 29. Any iClickers borrowed from me must be returned by the end of Week 15 of class. Overdue iClickers will result in an incomplete for this course. More info on this will be discussed in class on Wednesday August 24.

COURSE STRUCTURE:
The overall aim of this class is to introduce you to the study of the Earth: its structure, materials, processes that shape it and their significance to humankind. Geology is a systems science and links biological, chemical and physical processes together into the study of the Earth and its processes. Class is designed to be as interactive as possible, given the constraints of a large lecture hall. During class you will be listening and taking notes during lecture, interacting with the subject matter and actively participating in group activities and discussions. This is intended to help you to make connections between the class material and your prior knowledge and your own real-world experiences in order to improve learning and retention of the material. I hope you will learn to view the natural world around you with a renewed interest and deeper understanding.

COURSE GOALS:
- Students will be able to pose a question, construct a hypothesis, analyze and communicate results, assess uncertainty and evaluate old hypotheses in light of new data.
- Students will be able to extract information from geological materials and historical records and use their observations to synthesize reasonable conclusions about the geologic history of the region, and to predict the likelihood of future natural disasters.
- Students will be able to evaluate the scientific arguments set out in popular media, news outlets and political discussions.

BLACKBOARD:
Log onto your Portal account from the CSU Chico website (www.csuchico.edu). Click on the link to Blackboard Learn then select “GEOS 101” from the list of courses in which you are enrolled. Important class materials not in your textbook will be posted on the Blackboard site after class. You will also use Blackboard for updates and checking your grades.
ASSESSMENT:
Your final grade will be based on the following activities. Please keep track of your own points earned so you know where you stand in the class.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Graded Item</th>
<th>% Possible</th>
<th>% Earned</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lecture Class Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pre-Work and Quizzes</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lecture Exam 1</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<td>Lecture Exam 2</td>
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<td>Lecture Exam 3</td>
<td>18%</td>
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<td>Labs + Lab Exams</td>
<td>30% total</td>
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<td><strong>Total Points Possible</strong></td>
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Percentages are translated to letter grades as stated below.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0–54</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>55–64</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>65–69</td>
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<td>C-</td>
<td>70–73</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>74–76</td>
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<td>C+</td>
<td>77–79</td>
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<td>B-</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>83–86</td>
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<td>B+</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94–100</td>
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COURSE ACTIVITIES:

PARTICIPATION: Each day there will be questions or activities for you to work on in groups. You will report your responses to the questions with your own iClicker, or on some days with paper provided in class to be turned in at the end of class. If you leave early you will not receive participation credit. There are two “free” days for participation (including iClicker issues) as described below.

iCLICKERS: Each day that you attend class and use your clicker to answer all of the questions posed, you will earn points toward your participation grade. Class participation will be recorded with the iClickers required for this course starting Tuesday August 30th. You may borrow an iClicker from me by going to SA tutoring, signing a loan-contract and registering your iClicker prior to class on Aug 30.

Registration of your iClicker is completed through the link provided on the GEOS 101 Blackboard home page. Once registered, you can begin earning participation credit. In some cases, participation will not be graded, but you will receive points for your responses. In other cases, your answers will be graded (I’ll let you know when this is the case).

Points with your iClicker: You are expected to bring your iClicker to class every day. If you do not have your iClicker or if it is not functioning properly you will miss points. I realize that a variety of circumstances arise that might result in a malfunction, in forgetting to register the iClicker, low battery, absence or forgotten iClicker, so there are 2 free days of points possible in case you have an issue with your iClicker. Do not ask for exceptions to any part of this policy, but if you do have issues with your iClicker, come see me ASAP so we can resolve them and you can earn points in class!

Appropriate use of iClickers: Use only your own iClicker: this is an official form of submitting information for the course so is subject to the University’s Academic Integrity Policy. Each student will register only one iClicker and can only earn points with that iClicker. Anyone found using an iClicker that is not registered to them is considered in violation of the university’s Academic Integrity Policy so will result in an “F” for the course and referral to Student Judicial Affairs (see Academic Integrity policy below), which can result in expulsion from the university.
**PRE-WORK AND PRE-WORK QUIZZES:** Quizzes give you credit for doing assignments that prepare you for class each day. This is important so you come to class with some background information that we can use during class to focus on more interesting themes. Pre-work is described in the Course Schedule and quizzes will be posted in the “Pre-Work Quiz” folder on Bb. Quizzes must be completed BEFORE each class. You will have 20 minutes to complete each quiz (unless otherwise posted); you may take the quiz two times and your highest score will be posted in Bb. Quizzes become “unavailable” at 1:40pm so you have time to complete the quiz and get to class on time.

**LABS:** It is essential that you attend all of the labs in your scheduled lab section on time. Your weekly lab grade will be based on a combination of attendance, quality of work, weekly quiz scores and lab exams. Labs are worth 30% of your final grade. Please note that lectures are NOT scheduled in order to prepare you for lab exercises: labs are designed to stand alone. This is because some of the lab groups meet before the weekly lectures, and some of the students in your lab may attend the other lecture session.

**MIDTERM EXAMS:** Each lecture exam consists of 40-50 multiple-choice questions, and a few questions that will ask you to provide short answers, short calculations, or draw/label important diagrams. Notice that the exam values increase from Exam 1 → Exam 3, so as you become more comfortable with the style of exams and the type of material, you can get more credit for doing well. Also notice that exams occur on two days. The first day of exams are taken independently, each multiple choice question is worth 3 points. On the second day of each exam, the multiple choice questions will be redistributed so multiple choice questions can be discussed by students in groups (pods) and then answered for an additional 1 point each. Short answer questions are only offered on the first day of the exam. The total exam score is determined as follows:

- Day 1: Individual multiple choice questions: 3 points possible
- Day 1: Individual short answer questions: As indicated for each question (usually 10-20%)
- Day 2: Group multiple choice questions: 1 point possible

**Anti-group "examers":** If you prefer to not participate in the group exam (or if you are absent on the 2nd exam day), your individual exam questions will be worth 4 points each. Students typically do much better in their groups (pods) so I encourage you to consider taking the group exam. If you miss the first day of the exam, you are not eligible to earn points on the 2nd day of the exam.

**FINAL EXAM:** The final exam will follow the same format, with back to back exams in one period. The final exam will most likely take place on **Friday 16th December at 12-1:50pm** but the final exam date will be confirmed on September 16th 2016. ([http://www.csuchico.edu/apss/documents/final_exam_schedule_matrix.pdf](http://www.csuchico.edu/apss/documents/final_exam_schedule_matrix.pdf))

**MISSED EXAMS:**
A comprehensive exam is scheduled for 5pm on Friday, December 16th for students who have a university-excused absence for the date of one of the mid-terms. Permission is required for this exam. Please see me within 7 days of the missed exam date with your official paperwork. My decision is non-negotiable.

**CONTACTING ME:**
Please bring your geology questions to my **office hours**: I LOVE talking about geology with students, and many students do not take advantage of this opportunity!
For non-content-related questions, please check to see if your question can be answered by reading the syllabus before contacting me. I will do my best to answer emails within one weekday. I will not answer any exam-related questions within 24 hours of the exam, so be sure to study in advance!
**Student Assistants and Tutoring:**
This is an active learning environment so we will be doing a lot of groupwork. Since there is only one of me, I will be aided in the classroom by six Student Assistants (SAs) who are all Geological and Environmental Science majors. Their job is to work with groups of students during lecture sessions to answer questions and clear up confusion. They will also be offering tutoring sessions at least twice a week in PHYS 225 on Monday 3-4pm and Thursday 4-5pm. Tutoring is also available from members of the Association of Geological and Environmental Science students (AGES) in PHYS 234.

**Courtesy:**
Always be on time! Do not leave early as this is disruptive to other students. Do not eat or sleep. We may use electronics in class for in-class exercises and groupwork. If using computers for taking notes in lecture, please be respectful of other students by sticking to the subject at hand rather than online shopping/checking Facebook, etc. What you’re looking at on a laptop is disruptive not just to your own concentration, but also to that of other students around and behind you. Recording of lectures (video and/or audio) is NOT permitted without my prior written consent.

**Academic Integrity:**
Any work submitted that is not the product of the student who has their name on the work, which would include work taken from any other sources and not properly noted/cited, work not originally produced by the student, and/or work fabricated by a student, is plagiarized work or considered cheating and will be prosecuted according to university standards. If you do not understand what plagiarism is, you must seek information regarding this matter in the University Catalog. Prosecution will begin with a failing grade on the work, and possibly a failing grade in the course, depending upon action by Student Judicial Affairs. The policy on academic integrity and other resources related to student conduct can be found at: [http://www.csuchico.edu/sjd/integrity.shtml](http://www.csuchico.edu/sjd/integrity.shtml). It is the expressed expectation of this instructor that all students demonstrate integrity and individual responsibility in all actions related to this course. Unethical behavior of any kind is unacceptable and will be prosecuted vigorously.

**Respect:**
Students in this class are encouraged to speak up and participate during class meetings. Because the class will represent a diversity of individual beliefs, backgrounds, and experiences, every member of this class must show respect for every other member of this class and for the instructor.

**Accessibility and Accommodations:**
If you have any disability related needs in terms of taking exams or other accommodations, please contact Disability Support Service (Colusa Hall 898-5959 or campus information 898-INFO for directions) on campus to obtain the appropriate documentation. Afterwards, come by my office and identify your needs within the first two weeks of class so that any necessary arrangements can be made.

**Student Learning Center:**
The mission of the Student Learning Center (SLC) is to provide services that will assist CSU, Chico students to become independent learners. The SLC prepares and supports students in their college course work by offering a variety of programs and resources to meet student needs. The SLC facilitates the academic transition and retention of students from high schools and community colleges by providing study strategy information, content subject tutoring, and supplemental instruction. The SLC is online at [http://www.csuchico.edu/slc](http://www.csuchico.edu/slc). The University Writing Center has been combined with the Student Learning Center.
**Student Services:**
Student services are designed to assist students in the development of their full academic potential and to motivate them to become self-directed learners. Students can find support for services such as skills assessment, individual or group tutorials, subject advising, learning assistance, summer academic preparation and basic skills development. Student services information can be found at: [http://www.csuchico.edu/current-students](http://www.csuchico.edu/current-students).

**Strategies for Success:**
- Attend class, be mentally present (which is different from being physically present) and take notes. Questions discussed in class will appear on the exams! It’s like free money...
- Prepare for class ahead of time by reading the assigned sections of the textbook and watching any recommended videos.
- After every class (within 24 hours) re-read and summarize your class notes. This will help the information enter your long-term memory.
- **Take an active part in class discussions and exercises.** Take the time to get to know your group and work together outside of class as well.
- At the end of the day, **your education is in your hands.** You have a responsibility to review your own knowledge and understanding, and ask questions! I will not necessarily realize that you don’t understand something unless you tell me so!
- **Bring your questions to my office hours!** I want to help you succeed, but I may not know you have a problem with something if you don’t tell me about it!