

GEL134.Fall.2007

- COURSE SYLLABUS -

GEL 134

HISTORICAL GEOLOGY

(3 Semester Credit Hours)

Fall 2007

Professor: Dr. Brian Cooper
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Siccar Point, Scotland

Source: Wikipedia Image

GEL 134 HISTORICAL GEOLOGY

Professor: Brian Cooper
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Section: (02)
Semester: Fall, 2007
Classes meet: Room LDB 315, TuTh 12.30-1.50
Office Hours: LDB300C Any afternoon after 2.p.m or by appointment
Final Exam: To be announced
Course Text: Dott, (XXXX) *Evolution of the Earth* (paperback) McGraw-Hill 7th Ed.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Introduction

An introduction to the history of the earth and its past inhabitants, including a section on the dinosaurs and their extinction. This course gives a broad overview of various sedimentary/stratigraphic events, tectonic events, and biological events that took place during the earth's development.

Objectives:

1. Develop an understanding of the evolution of the earth through time, the evolution of life on earth, and the relationships between the two lines of evolution.
2. Obtain a spatial and chronological perspective of one's place in the Universe.
3. Gain an appreciation of the economic importance of understanding earth's history.
4. Scientific and critical thinking

Grading:

180 - 200= A, 160 - 179= B; 140 - 159= C; 120 - 139= D; ≤119= F. No extra credit.
Each of the four Scan-Tron exams is worth 50 points, for a total of 200 points.
(Note: Lab (GEL 114) grade is a separate grade)

Make-up Exams:

If you miss any of the first three exams there will be a comprehensive make-up exam given at 2 pm on December 6, 2007, in LDB 300.

Basic Philosophies

I expect good manners and a real concern for the welfare of other members of the class. If you use your imagination and place yourself in the position of others there will be no problems. That means do not disturb others who are there to learn: no cell phones, no sleeping, no reading non-course material.

Feedback

I welcome feedback and comments. Don't just wait until that end of semester questionnaire in order to express your feelings about any aspect of the course. This is **YOUR** course and you or someone else is paying a lot of money for it. It is your duty to make sure that you are getting value for money. You may have comments about the pace, the level of discussion, or about the general effectiveness. If you make constructive comments I will in all likelihood respond, but I can only do this if I know that there is a problem. In this connection I get pretty frustrated when the only time certain students attend office hours is just prior to the mid-term or final exam. If you want to do well in this course you have to be engaged with the whole course.

Attendance

Attendance is required. There are **NO** excused absences.

Each absence in excess of 6 absences costs 5 points off the final grade.

Three tardies are equivalent to one absence. If you miss a lecture, it is your responsibility to obtain the material presented in the lecture from a fellow student.

Academic Conduct

An Honor System applies to this course.

Cheaters will automatically fail. Please keep your eyes on your own exam.

You get one warning, then you get a zero. See *Student Guidelines*.

Americans with Disabilities Act: According to University policy requests for accommodations must be initiated by the student. A student seeking accommodations should go to the Counseling Center in a timely manner and discuss any Students with Disabilities (SSD) issues. Every semester that the student desires accommodations, it is the student's responsibility to complete a Classroom Accommodation Request Form at the SSD office and follow the stated procedure in notifying faculty. Accommodations for disabled students are decided based upon documentation and need on a case-by-case basis by the Counseling Center.

Religious Holidays: University policy states that a student who is absent from class for the observance of a religious holy day should take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence. *The student, not later than the 15th calendar day after the first day of the semester, or the 7th calendar day after the first day of a summer session, must notify the instructor of each scheduled class that he/she would be absent for a religious holy day.*

Visitors In The Classroom : Unannounced visitors to class meetings must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted in the classroom or at a restricted field site. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the class.

GEL 134 PHYSICAL GEOLOGY

COURSE OUTLINE

DATE	TOPICS
August 21	Introduction
August 23	Beginnings
August 28	Geologic Time
August 30	Precambrian: Crust
Sept. 4	Precambrian: Canadian Shield
Sept. 6	Precambrian: Life on Earth
Sept. 11	Data: Paleontology and Extinctions
Sept. 13	FIRST EXAM
Sept. 18	Data: Sedimentary Rocks and Stratigraphy
Sept. 20	Background: Plate Tectonics
Sept. 25	Early Paleozoic: cratonic sequences
Sept. 27	Early Paleozoic: cratonic sequences
Oct. 2	Early Paleozoic: tectonics
Oct. 4	SECOND EXAM
Oct. 9	Data: paleomagnetism
Oct. 11	Early Paleozoic: tectonics
Oct. 16	Early Paleozoic: life
Oct. 18	Late Paleozoic: cratonic sequences
Oct. 23	Late Paleozoic: cratonic sequences
Oct. 25	Late Paleozoic: tectonics
Oct. 30	Late Paleozoic: tectonics
Nov. 1	Late Paleozoic: life
Nov. 6	Mesozoic: tectonics and sediments
Nov. 8	THIRD EXAM
Nov. 13	Mesozoic: Jurassic
Nov. 15	Mesozoic: Cretaceous
Nov. 20	Mesozoic: life, including dinosaurs
Nov. 22	Thanksgiving
Nov. 27	Mesozoic Extinctions
Nov. 29	Cenozoic: tectonics
Dec. 4	Cenozoic: tectonics
Dec. 6	Cenozoic: events
Dec. 11	FINAL: 11 am -1 pm