

GLG 121S: Physical Geology

4 Credit Hours

Section/Term: GLG-121S-801FS
Class Meeting Time: Online
Location: Online
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M.S. in Biology, Central Michigan University, 2006-2008
M.S. coursework in Geology, Wright State University, 2016-2019
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On Campus Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 10:30-12:00 pm (room 121 or 106)
Online Office Hours: Thursday 8:30-9:30 pm (email me first)
Saturday 7:30-9:30 pm (email me first)

Required Materials:

- Essentials of Geology, Lutgens and Tarbuck, 13th ed, Pearson
 - You can buy either a printed version (loose-leaf or hardcover) or an ebook.
- Modified Mastering Geology Access, Pearson
 - See below for instructions on how to purchase access and set up your account.
- Edison Rock Kit
- Small medicine dropper bottle
 - You need a small dropper bottle to mix and store your hydrochloric acid. It only needs to hold around 1-3 ounces. See this link for an example: [dropper bottle](#)
- An object made of glass that you can scratch
 - Our mineral lab uses glass to test the hardness of minerals. Only a few minerals will need to be tested this way, but some type of clear glass will be important. You could use a drinking glass, a glass soda bottle, etc, as long as it is 100% glass and not plastic or acrylic.
- Hydrochloric acid (HCl)
 - You have a few options for purchasing hydrochloric acid. I recommend purchasing as SMALL a container as possible since you only need 1-2 tablespoons of it for the entire semester.
 - i. Search Amazon for a 10% solution OR a 1 M solution of HCl. The “M” in “1 M” stands for “molar”, a unit of concentration. If you buy this, you do NOT need to dilute it. It is ready to go. Here is a link to an example of a 1 M solution: [1 M HCl](#)
 - ii. Muriatic acid
 - Muriatic acid is another name for hydrochloric acid. You can purchase muriatic acid and dilute it yourself for the labs. Muriatic acid is used for cleaning concrete, among other materials. Most home improvement stores sell it, usually with the painting supplies or solvents. You can also order it online. If you go this route, see the dilution instructions below.

Dilution Instructions for Muriatic Acid

You need to dilute your muriatic acid to use it more safely. Most muriatic acid is about 30% hydrochloric acid, and we want to dilute that to a 10% hydrochloric acid. To dilute your muriatic acid:

- Safety first!
 - Wear gloves! I simply cannot stress this enough. Muriatic acid is extremely corrosive, and you will get a serious chemical burn if you spill it on yourself.
 - If you do spill it on yourself, wash immediately with soap and water. If you spill it on your clothes, immediately change your clothes and wash them.
 - Take care of where you do your pouring and mixing in case you spill. I recommend doing this outside. In case of a spill, use baking soda to neutralize the acid.
- Measure out 1 teaspoon of water and pour it into your dropper bottle. You may find a small funnel helpful.
- carefully measure out $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon of muriatic acid and pour it into the bottle. You may find a small funnel helpful.
- Cap your bottle and swirl to mix.

Communication

With Your Instructor:

The best way to communicate with me is via email. Except on weekends, I will respond within 48 hours. The best way for ME to communicate with YOU is also via email. Check your Edison email every day. You are also expected to check Blackboard at least once per day. Class announcements are posted on Blackboard at least once per week, so regularly check the Announcements link on Blackboard. You are also expected to monitor your grades. If you find a mistake, let me know immediately via email. You may, however, also call me! Please leave me a voicemail with your phone number, and I will call you back! Please remember that that I can't read your mind! I don't know you have a question or are struggling with an assignment if you don't tell me!

With Your Classmates:

If you would like to pose a question to your classmates, click the Discussions tab in Blackboard, and then click New Discussion to add your post. Check the Discussions tab regularly and respond to any questions by clicking the title of the post and then typing your response in the box. I will monitor the discussions as well.

Online Office Hours

Regular interaction with your instructor is extremely important in online classes since we never see each other face to face. Therefore, I would like to encourage everyone to check in with me each week. I am available to meet during the office hours times listed at the very top of this syllabus, both at the Piqua campus and online. Email me if I am not in the chat room when you log on. Occasionally, office hours have to be moved in any particular week. Pay attention to Announcements on Blackboard for updates each week.

Extra credit is available to students who attend each week. You may ask questions about assignments, labs, the lecture readings, etc., or just say hi. I'm happy to check your lab work and see if you are on the right track! Email me to reserve your preferred time.

To attend the online hours, log on to Blackboard and click the link in the course menu called Online Office Hours. If you log in, you need a working audio connection, so you need either a microphone on your computer OR a phone to be able to call in to the session. For the hours at the Piqua campus, stop by my classroom (room 121) or office (room 106) or call me and leave a voicemail with a callback number.

Time Commitment

You can expect to spend approximately 5 hours per week during a fall/spring semester completing your Pearson homework and labs. This is the same amount of time you would spend on campus if you were to take the course face to face. However, this time does NOT include the time you spend reading the book, studying for your exams, and taking your exams. Face-to-face students have to do this at home outside of normal class time, and online students do too.

You should create a weekly class schedule at the beginning of the semester that at minimum sets aside the time for homework and labs. Exams take about 2 hours on average, so you should add that time to your schedule for each exam. Additional time, anywhere from 2-4 hours, should be planned weekly for reading the book and studying for the exams.

Make-Up Work

Some assignments may be submitted late, particularly exams and the Pearson assignments. In this case, you will receive a maximum of 50% credit. If I post the answers to a lab, you may NOT turn it in after the due date. If an assignment will NOT be accepted after the due date, I will indicate that on Blackboard. No late work may be submitted after Sunday, December 11th, 2026.

AI Policy

For this course, you are NOT allowed to use artificial intelligence (AI) programs to complete your assignments. You are welcome to use AI to study for your exams. You also may use AI to format any literature citation sections that are required for an assignment. However, all writing and analysis must be original without the assistance of AI.

Schedule (Subject to Change)

Week 1: Introduction to Geology (Chapter 1) and Mapping

- Syllabus Quiz, Study Strategies Quiz, Week 1 Homework, and Coordinates Lab due by 11:59 pm on Sunday, August 30th
- Reminder: You CANNOT click on Assignments in Blackboard until you have achieved 100% on the Syllabus Quiz and Study Strategies Quiz. You will retake the quizzes as many times as needed to earn 100%

Week 2: Plate Tectonics (Chapter 2)

- Week 2 Homework and Plate Tectonics Lab due by 11:59 pm on Sunday, September 6th.

Week 3: Minerals (Chapter 3)

- Week 3 Homework, Mineral Lab, and Exam 1 (Chapters 1-2) due by 11:59 pm on Sunday, September 13th.

Week 4: Igneous Rocks and Volcanoes (Chapters 4 and 5)

- Week 4 Homework, Point Counting Lab, and Igneous Rock Lab due by 11:59 pm on Sunday, September 20th.

Week 5: Weathering (Chapter 6) and Topographic Maps

- Week 5 Homework, Topographic Maps Lab, and Exam 2 (Chapters 3-5) due by 11:59 pm on Sunday, September 27th.

Week 6: Sedimentary Rocks (Chapter 7)

- Study Strategies Reflection Quiz, Week 6 Homework, and Sedimentary Rocks Lab due by 11:59 pm on Sunday, October 4th.

Week 7: Metamorphism (Chapter 8) and Metamorphic Rocks

- Week 7 Homework and Metamorphic Rocks Lab due by 11:59 pm on Sunday, October 11th.

Week 8: Oceans (Chapter 10)

- Week 8 Homework and Exam 3 (Chapters 6-8) due by 11:59 pm on Sunday, October 18th.

Week 9: Earthquakes (Chapter 9)

- Week 9 Homework and Earthquake Lab due by 11:59 pm on Sunday, October 25th.

Week 10: Mountains (Chapter 11) and Geologic Structures

- Week 10 Homework and Geologic Structures Lab due by 11:59 pm on Sunday, November 1st.

Week 11: Mass Wasting (Chapter 12)

- Week 11 Homework, Weathering Lab, and Exam 4 (Chapters 9-11) due by 11:59 pm on Sunday, November 8th.

Week 12: Geologic Time and Evolution (Chapters 18 and 19)

- Week 12 Homework, Relative Dating Lab, and Final Project due by 11:59 pm on Sunday, November 15th.

Week 13: Running Water (Chapter 13)

- Week 13 Homework, Running Water Lab, Sinuosity Lab, and Exam 5 (Chapters 12, 18, 19) due by 11:59 pm on Sunday, November 22nd.

Week 14: Groundwater and Glaciers (Chapters 14 and 15)

- Week 14 Homework and Groundwater and Glaciers Lab due by 11:59 pm on Sunday, November 29th.

Week 15: Deserts, Wind, and Shorelines (Chapter 16 and 17)

- Week 15 Homework, Drylands and Coasts Lab, and Exam 6 (Chapters 13-15) due by 11:59 pm on Sunday, December 6th.

Week 16: Climate Change (Chapter 20)

- Week 16 Homework, Climate Change Lab, and Exam 7 (Chapters 16, 17, 20) due by 11:59 pm on Friday, December 11th.

Assessment

Modified Mastering Geology (446 pts):

You are required to purchase access for Pearson's Modified Mastering Geology. Each week you will complete a homework assignment. Read the textbook chapter(s) assigned for that particular week first, and then complete that week's Pearson homework. To access your Pearson homework, click the title of the assignment in Blackboard.

- Pearson access can be purchased online through the eCampus bookstore. Alternatively, you can purchase access with a credit or debit card via Blackboard. To register, go to Blackboard, click Assignments, click Week 1, click Lecture, and click Week 1 Homework. You will be prompted to register and either enter a code from eCampus, purchase access, or sign up for a free trial.
- You may purchase access through Edison's online bookstore eCampus. If you do, you will find a code on your digital bookshelf on the eCampus website. This code will be entered during Pearson registration on Blackboard. If you purchase through eCampus, you MUST create your account using the first Pearson Week 1 Homework link in Blackboard.
- NOTE: If you are a CC+ student, you MUST purchase access from eCampus.
- You may purchase access through Blackboard rather than eCampus for cheaper. Simply click Week 1 Homework in Blackboard to set up your account and pay.
- Sign up for the free trial if your financial aid is delayed so that you can complete the assignments on time.

Labs (540 pts):

Labs will be completed weekly and may or may not be accepted late. Refer to the instructions on Blackboard for each lab to know if a particular may be turned in late.

Miscellaneous Quizzes (48.5 points):

Several quizzes will be completed on various topics using Blackboard.

Exams (700 pts):

Exams consist of 50-70 multiple choice questions randomly drawn from a pool of questions. In this way, every student's exam will be different. Exams will require you to APPLY concepts as I already know you are capable of memorization of facts. Tests will be administered via the Respondus LockDown Browser. This browser is installed in the library and Internet Café of the Piqua campus. If you plan to take the exams at home, the link to download the web browser can be found under the Getting Started module on Blackboard. The Syllabus Quiz will help you make sure that the web browser is working correctly. Should you have any problems accessing an exam, email me immediately.

NOTE: If you don't have the authority to download the web browser onto your device, leave enough time to take your device to the appropriate person for them to install it.

A password is NOT required. You must take the test within the time specified, and you must finish it once it is started since you only get one attempt. Save your test after each question. These are NOT group exams, and you

are NOT allowed to use the Internet to find answers. Should you have any problems accessing an exam, email me immediately. Exam questions will be answered one at a time and you may skip questions and come back to them (although this will take longer and you have a time limit).

If you get a red bar across the test part-way through, do NOT hit “okay”. Hit the back button first. Try that several times to see if it fixes the problem. If it doesn’t, try refreshing the browser. If it still doesn’t work, hit “OK”, and then start the exam process over to finish the test. If you get a message saying “test already submitted”, email me immediately as I will need to wipe your test so that you can start over. If your Internet window goes white, you can try refreshing the browser or closing the window and going back into the test, BUT if a box appears warning you that the exam will be submitted, do NOT hit OK. Just shut down your computer without closing the window, and then restart your computer and go right back in to the exam.

Grading Policy

Grades will be posted on Blackboard as I finish them. Check often in case I make an error. Your final grade will be a weighted grade. Labs will account for 40% of your final grade, and lecture (all other assignments) will account for 60% of your final grade. Final grades will be recorded based on your weighted percentage as follows:

A 90 and above

B 80 – 89.9

C 70 – 79.9

D 60 – 69.9

F 0 – 59.9

I do not round above the 10ths place, ie. a 89.78% = 89.8% which is a B

Reminders

- Think before you write. Even if you are sending an email to only one person that person can forward it to anyone.
- Proofread and use the spell check feature because grammar and spelling count. Online classes are no different than traditional courses and the same academic standards will be used.
- Respond promptly to email messages sent to you! Check every day!
- Check your Blackboard Announcements every day. If you log in less frequently you may fall behind and have a hard time catching back up with the assignments.
- Participate! Contribute your ideas, thoughts, and comments regarding the subject you are studying with your instructor. Your instructor should not be your only resource for learning in your online class...explore the subject on your own by searching for videos and news articles.
- Take the class seriously. There will be times that everyone around you is having fun or will want you to play hooky from your class work. Your online course work is just as important as a traditional class so make sure you explain to your family and friends how important it is for you to do well in your studies.
- Budget your time. Online is not easier than the traditional educational process. In fact, many students will say it requires much more time and commitment. Be aware of and keep up with the course schedule. Although these are online courses, they are designed to provide you with a semester schedule of course units, assignments, conferences, etc. These online courses require that you adhere to the course schedule, for you to benefit from the course material.

- Having problems... Your instructor is limited to what you communicate to her. You need to be very specific when you have problems or do not understand something about the materials you are covering. If you are having technical difficulties, or problems understanding something about the course, you must speak up otherwise there is no way that anyone will know that something is wrong. Also, if you don't understand something, chances are several people have the same question.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Plagiarism is the act of using someone else's words, sentences, or ideas and passing them off as your own without giving credit by citing the original source. If you plagiarize in this course, you will receive a score of zero for that assignment and you will be reported to the dean.

You might be plagiarizing if you:

- Submit someone else's work as your own.
- Buy a paper from a papermill, website or other source.
- Copy and paste lab answers from a papermill, website, or other source.
- Copy sentences, phrases, paragraphs, or ideas from someone else's work, published or unpublished, without giving the original author credit.
- Replace select words from a passage without giving the original author credit.
- Copy any type of multimedia (graphics, audio, video, internet streams), computer programs, music compositions, graphs, or charts from someone else's work without giving the original author credit.
- Piece together phrases, ideas, and sentences from a variety of sources to write an essay.
- Build on someone else's idea or phrase to write your paper without giving the original author credit.
- Submit your own paper in more than one course.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT SERVICES

For Blackboard Assignment issues, the Instructor should be the first point of contact

For Log-in or other technology issues:

There are several steps you can follow if you have issues logging in to Blackboard or Office.

During business hours:

- Password reset: Log onto office.com with your Edison email and follow the "forgot password" prompts.
- Reach out for help during regular business hours (9-5 Monday-Thursday, 9-4 Friday)
 - o email [Support](#)
 - o call 937-778-8600 and ask for IT Help Desk

After hours:

- Password reset: Log onto office.com with your Edison email and follow the "forgot password" prompts
- Go to [Edison State Community College](#) into the Resources tab and click "IT Help Desk" then click "Chat".
- Call 937-778-7957 and talk to the off-campus Blackboard company to get help

TESTING YOUR FAITH ACT POLICY

Edison State Community College is committed to providing an environment respectful of students' beliefs. Students are permitted to be absent for up to 3 days each semester based on their faith, religion, or spiritual belief system with no academic penalty.

Students must complete the [Testing Your Faith Act Accommodations Form](#) and provide a copy to their individual faculty within 14 days from the start of the course. The entire policy can be found in the [Student Handbook](#).

ACCOMMODATIONS /ACCESSIBILITY AND DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES POLICY

Edison State Community College will make reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. If you believe you may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability, contact the instructor privately with your self-identification letter. If you do not have a self-identification letter, contact Accessibility and Disability Support Services by emailing [Disabilities Services](#) or by calling 937.778.7850. Accessibility and Disability Support Services is located on the Piqua Campus in Room 160.