

CASPER COLLEGE COURSE SYLLABUS

Geology 1070 N1, Earth Science for Elementary Educators (online version)

Semester/Year: Fall 2015

Lecture Hours: 3

Lab Hours: 2

Credit Hours: 4

Class Time: ONLINE

Days: ONLINE

Room: NA

Instructor's Name: Beth Wisely, PhD

Instructor's Contact

Information: Office TM 105

Office Phone: ext. 2233

(307) 268-2233

Email:

bwisely@caspercollege.edu

Office Hours: In person, TM 105

Monday: 2:00-3:00 p.m.

Tuesday: 2:00-3:30 p.m.

Wednesday: 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Thursday: 2:00-3:30 p.m.

Correspondence with your instructor: The fastest way to contact me for this online course is via email. Students are free to address me by my first name in correspondences, Beth. However, if you prefer to address me more formally in your messaging, please use my appropriate title, Dr. Wisely. I check my email frequently and will do my best to answer in less than 24 hours, often responding much sooner.

Course Description: Geology 1070 covers the geologic processes that produced Earth's present topography and structure. We also cover Earth's geologic history and the fossil evolution response to changing geography through time. The course also includes studies of energy reserves, pollution, ecology, and mineral resources.

Corequisites: Recommended concurrent enrollment in EDCI 1450 (companion seminar)

****As this is an online course, it is each student's responsibility to secure continuing access to a reliable computer and internet access through the entire length of the semester.****

Both Moodle Messaging and Casper College email may be used for communications from the instructor, so students are responsible for checking both frequently. Students may reach the instructor through either mode of communication.

Goal: The goal of this course is to provide a basic understanding of Earth Systems Science to students who plan to make education their career choice as well as to students who wish to gain a general knowledge of geology. Geologists are directly involved in the search for new energy and mineral supplies, as well as mitigating the environmental impact of such activity. Whether these activities will be successful or not, all members of society will be affected. It is hoped that this course will provide a basis of knowledge of this dynamic planet for those who must make important decisions in the future, including scientists, consumers, and those who have an influence on future generations.

Outcomes:

Passing students should:

1. Understand the scientific method, specifically, how the Scientific Method was used to develop the theory of plate tectonics.
2. Use the scientific method to DO science, to solve problems, and to make predictions.
3. Be able to identify and understand the processes of forming minerals, rocks, earthquakes, volcanoes and geologic structures.
4. Understand how interactions between Atmosphere, Hydrosphere, Biosphere, and Lithosphere shape the Earth's surface.
5. Understand geologic time including: the evolution of life based on the fossil record and dating of Earth's history.
6. Understand the interactions between humans and the Earth through studies in ecology, mineral resources, energy sources, and pollution.
7. Be able to demonstrate their knowledge of these concepts through quizzes, exams and forum discussions.

Methodology: This course will consist of text readings, laboratory exercises, online forum discussions, online open-book quizzes, a midterm exam, and a final exam (exams are closed book and proctored, see *Exams* course document for proctoring information). Students must complete lab exercises from a take-home lab kit. Since this is a lab-based course, if you do not pass the lab portion, you cannot pass the course. Carefully read all assigned material, and, above all, ask questions when confused or unsure.

All course assignments are linked through the Moodle course website. Under the Course Documents block in Moodle, you will find detailed information regarding the course material and requirements. The course is divided into 5 Units, as seen on the Moodle course webpage. Each Unit block contains a *Unit Summary of Assignments*. These are key documents for tracking your upcoming assignments.

Evaluation Criteria: Student evaluation will be as objective as possible with a variety of labs, quizzes, discussion forums and exams. Please see the Course Documents pertaining to each portion of your grade percent listed below.

Forums ~10% - 5 forums, each worth 10 points - MANDATORY

Pre-quiz and Unit Quizzes ~ 28% - 1 pre-quiz worth 3%, and 5 unit quizzes each worth 5%

Labs ~20% - 14 labs total, best 10 scores used for grading

Exams ~42% - Midterm and Final Exams

TOTAL 100%

Grade Cutoffs

A: 90%+, B: 80-89%, C: 70-79%, D: 60-69%, F: <60%

Casper College may collect samples of student work demonstrating achievement of the above outcomes. Any personally identifying information will be removed from student work.

Required Text, Readings, and Materials:

TEXT: *Earth* 2nd edition by Hendrix and Thompson

LAB KIT: *Introductory Physical Geology Lab Manual* (Kit and Lab Manual), by Coast Learning Systems. **Make sure you purchase a fresh kit that includes the access code to the lab manual web site! You will need this! I cannot be responsible for an incomplete kit you buy from another source!**

Class Policies: It is likely that some small problems will crop up in an asynchronous (anytime, anywhere) class. Relax, don't worry, and enjoy yourself! The problems can be taken care of, and no technical problems will affect your grade. The most important things to remember are to read the text, plan ahead for quizzes and exams, participate in the forum discussions, and complete the lab kit. And, just like a traditional class, ask questions when unsure or confused. Most assignments have specific due dates. They cannot be made up. Make sure you know when things are due as they may not be accepted past the due date. Plan accordingly.

Last date to Change to audit status or to withdraw with a W Grade: Check the Casper College Academic Calendar.

Student Rights and Responsibilities: Please refer to the Casper College Student Conduct and Judicial Code for information concerning your rights and responsibilities as a Casper College Student.

Chain of Command: If you have any problems with this class, you should first contact the instructor to attempt to solve the problem. If you are not satisfied with the solution offered by the instructor, you should then take the matter through the appropriate chain of command starting with the Department Head/Program Director, the Dean, and lastly the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Academic Dishonesty: (Cheating & Plagiarism) Casper College demands intellectual honesty. Proven plagiarism or any form of dishonesty associated with the academic process can result in the offender failing the course in which the offense was committed or expulsion from school. See the Casper College Student Code of Conduct for more information on this topic.

Official Means of Communication: Casper College faculty and staff will employ the student's assigned Casper College email account as a primary method of communication. Students are responsible to check their account regularly.

ADA Accommodations Policy: If you need academic accommodations because of a disability, please inform me as soon as possible. See me privately after class, or during my office hours. To request academic accommodations, students must first consult with the college's Disability Services Counselor located in the Gateway Building, Room 344, (307) 268-2557, bheuer@caspercollege.edu. The Disability Services Counselor is responsible for reviewing documentation provided by students requesting accommodations, determining eligibility for accommodations, and helping students request and use appropriate accommodations.

General Course Schedule: The course has been broken down into 5 "Units" (the same units that are described in your book). Each Unit covers a three-week period with Week 16 of the term reserved for finals. On the Moodle course page, opening and closing dates for quizzes, exams and forums are posted under each unit block. Each unit block has a Summary of Assignments listed as its first link. The summaries clearly lay out the course requirements for that 3-week period. All assignments for each unit must be completed by the closing dates posted. See the following chart of unit descriptions for the general content and timing of each unit.

UNIT DESCRIPTIONS

| UNIT | WEEKS | Chapter Readings | Topics and Assignments |
|------|-------------|------------------|---|
| 1 | Weeks 1-3 | Chapters 1-5 | Earth Materials and Time |
| 2 | Weeks 4-6 | Chapters 6-9 | Internal Processes |
| 3 | Weeks 7-10 | Chapters 10-14 | Surface Processes |
| 4 | Weeks 11-13 | Chapters 15-16 | The Oceans |
| 5 | Weeks 14-16 | Chapters 17-21 | The Atmosphere Evolution and Composition |