

GEOL 114 (Section 700) – EARTH HISTORY LABORATORY

Spring Semester 2011 – Western Kentucky University

Preliminary Syllabus – Subject to Changes

Instructor: Dr. Jennifer Cole

Email: jennifer.cole1@wku.edu

All course correspondence will be conducted through your WKU email and Blackboard. The instructor will check email regularly between 9 am and 7 pm Central on Mondays through Fridays.

Course Description: Laboratory work designed to accompany GEOL 112. Sedimentary rocks, fossil specimens, stratigraphic concepts, and geologic maps are studied. This laboratory is required for geology majors and minors and some prospective science teachers, but is optional for most other students.

Course Content Discipline: Geology **Credit Hours:** 1

Why Take This Course? This course satisfies the DL science lab requirement for general education. *Earth History Laboratory* is required for geology majors and minors. This course is also of interest to prospective science teachers.

Course Pre- or Co-requisite: GEOL 112, *Earth History*.

Text (optional):

There is no required textbook or lab manual, however, in some labs I will point out readings from the Wicander & Monroe textbook from GEOL 112 that may provide useful information.

Special Instructional Materials:

A computer with Internet access is required for this online class. All course correspondence, notes, assignments, and exams/quizzes will be conducted through Blackboard (<http://ecourses.wku.edu>). Because it is essential that you have access to a computer and the Internet, it is required that you identify at least one backup computer with Internet access in case you have problems with your personal equipment (**any equipment problems will not be considered a valid excuse for missing assignments**). For example, the WKU student computer labs and most public libraries have computers with Internet access.

Grading/Evaluation:

There will be 10 laboratory exercises throughout the semester, equally weighted to compose your final grade. The assignments will be posted online through Blackboard and must be submitted to me through Blackboard. There will be no credit given for late assignments. There will be no other exams or extra credit opportunities for this course.

Your grades on all work will be based on the following ranges:

A ≥ 90%, B = 80-89%, C = 70-79%, D = 60-69%, F ≤ 59%

Unless it is absolutely necessary, there will be no "curved" grades. You are only "competing" against yourself.

University Deadlines and Schedule Change Policy

The Dept. of Geography & Geology strictly adheres to University policies regarding schedule changes. It is the responsibility of the student to meet all deadlines for drop/add etc. Only in exceptional cases will a deadline be waived (you would be required to fill out an appeal form). The form requires a written description of the extenuating circumstances involved and the attachment of appropriate documentation. Poor academic performance, general malaise, or undocumented general stress factors are not considered legitimate circumstances. Spring academic calendar <http://www.wku.edu/Dept/Support/AcadAffairs/Registrar/spring/calendar.html>

Student Behavior and Communications

Students are expected to assist in maintaining an online environment that is conducive to learning. In order to assure that all students have an equal opportunity of success in this course, students are prohibited from engaging in any form of distraction. All course communications are limited to the subject material of the course and all communications are monitored by the instructor. Inappropriate online behavior with the instructor or any student shall result, minimally, in a request to leave class. All incidents of inappropriate behavior will be reported to the Department Head and the Dean of Ogden College. Students should also report inappropriate online behavior to the instructor.

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who require accommodations (academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids or services) for this course must contact the Office for Student Disability Services, DUC A200. The SDS telephone number is (270) 745-5004; TTY is 745-3030. Please do not request accommodations directly without a letter of accommodation from SDS. Their website is: <http://www.wku.edu/advising/index.php?page=student-disability-services>

Privacy Policy and Internet Security:

The course will be conducted online through Blackboard. Your WKU NET ID and password will give you access to Blackboard and provide a measure of privacy protection of the course content and your grades. Do not share your ID or password with anyone. If using a public computer (for example, at a hotel or library), you must log out and completely close the browser software when finished. This will prevent another person from accessing the course using your identification, doing mischief in your name, and violating the privacy of other students. You are expected to represent your identity in a truthful manner. Falsifying your identity is grounds for disciplinary action of all parties involved.

Proposed Course Schedule

The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the course schedule at anytime. Such changes will be promptly communicated with students by email.

Topic	Assignment Due By
1. Igneous Rock Identification	Feb. 6, 11 pm Central
2. Sedimentary Rock Identification	Feb. 13, 11 pm Central
3. Sedimentary Structures	Feb. 27, 11 pm Central
4. Sedimentary Field Studies	Mar. 6, 11 pm Central
5. Relative Time & Correlation	Mar. 20, 11 pm Central
6. Preservation	Mar. 27, 11 pm Central
7. Fossil Identification	Apr. 10, 11 pm Central
8. Paleoecology	Apr. 17, 11 pm Central
9. Lithofacies Maps	May 1, 11 pm Central
10. Geologic Maps	May 8, 11 pm Central