



Western Kentucky University
Syllabus, Summer 2022
GEOL 111: The Earth, 3 credit hours

Class time and location: This is a self-paced, **online class** through Blackboard (May 31 – June 24). It is your responsibility to stay on top of the course materials and four exams as outlined in the schedule below.

Help:

- **Student Resource Portal** (Tools for online learners): <https://www.wku.edu/online/srp/index.php>
- **Blackboard Help/WKU IT Help Desk:** Phone 270-745-7000; <https://www.wku.edu/its/service-desk/>
 - **Working Remotely:** <https://www.wku.edu/its/working-remotely/#students>

Instructor: Dr. M. Royhan Gani (Associate Professor)

Office: Environmental Sciences & Tech building, Room# EST 317

Email: royhan.gani@wku.edu

Office hours: Email to schedule a virtual meeting.

Helpful information for students enrolled in WKU Classes: <http://www.wku.edu/syllabusinfo/>

Textbook (recommended): *Essentials of Geology*, 13th edition (2018), by Lutgens and Turbuck. Pearson. ISBN-13: 978-0134700342

Lecture materials are available in Blackboard: <https://wku.blackboard.com/>

General Education/Colonnade credit: GEOL 111 fulfils the Colonnade Program requirement for the Natural & Physical Sciences (Explorations) subcategory. The course also satisfies the General Education Category D Science requirement for students who enrolled before Fall 2014.

Associated Laboratory: GEOL 113: The Earth Laboratory is required (recommended as co-requisite) for Geological Sciences majors, and pre-service science teachers. The laboratory is optional for all other students enrolled in Geol 111.

Course objectives: This course is designed to introduce students to the science of natural aspects and environments of the Earth, scientific methods, and basic geological principles. Specifically, this course explores the interaction among geology, people, and the environment including Earth materials, geologic time, and internal and external Earth processes (physical, chemical, and biological) that shape our unique (Goldilocks) planet.

Colonnade Learning Objectives: This course fulfills the Colonnade Program's four learning objectives, which are as follows:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the methods of scientific inquiry.
2. Explain basic concepts and principles in one or more of the sciences.
3. Apply scientific principles to interpret and make predictions in one or more of the sciences.
4. Explain how scientific principles relate to issues of personal and/or public importance.

Student learning objectives: The learning and content objectives for GEOL 111 are designed to fully integrate with the Colonnade Program's learning objectives. Upon completing this course, students will be able to:

1. articulate an understanding of the scientific method and knowledge of natural science and its relevance in our health, well-being, and quality of life.
2. develop a capacity for critical and logical thinking.
3. effectively communicate on topics of geology and inter-related science sub-disciplines (chemistry/physics/biology).
4. demonstrate the ability to think critically about natural processes and their social and economic issues.

5. locate and use the information on geology and the natural sciences on topics from a variety of sources, which could include peer-reviewed literature and popular public media electronic sources.
6. demonstrate the ability to quantitatively and qualitatively describe the interactions of Earth Systems and their impact on weather and climate, biodiversity, provenance, and landform formation.
7. demonstrate the ability to integrate the knowledge of geological data analysis and their significance in a coherent and meaningful manner.
8. critically evaluate data from a variety of sources and understand their limitations and inherent errors.

Exams: All four exams are timed and closed book. All materials covered in the lecture notes are open for test questions. You must take the exams on the scheduled date and between the scheduled times via Blackboard. You will receive a zero for the exam if you navigate away from the test or open any lecture notes, books or another window. You are expected to represent your identity truthfully. Falsifying your identity is subject to disciplinary action.

Attendance Policy: Since this is an online course, the attendance policy is self-enforced. Plan to finish reading one chapter (one lecture note) every day. There is a large amount of material to absorb, so try to establish a habit of reading course materials daily. This way you will not become overwhelmed before the weekly exams. Just because it is an online course, do not underestimate the amount of time you will need to succeed in this class.

Extra Credit: None. Don't ask. Keep up with the lecture materials, and concentrate most on studying for the scheduled exams. These contribute more to your grade than an extra credit would.

Academic integrity: Students are expected to conduct themselves according to the principles defined in the WKU Student Code of Conduct at <https://www.wku.edu/studentconduct/student-code-of-conduct.php>. Any student or group found to have committed an act of academic dishonesty shall have their case turned over to the Office of Student Conduct for disciplinary action. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to: cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, or misrepresentation, and being an accessory to an act of academic dishonesty. For more, see <https://www.wku.edu/handbook/academic-dishonesty.php/>

Schedule Change Policy: The Department of Earth, Environmental, and Atmospheric Sciences strictly adheres to University policies regarding schedule changes. It is your responsibility to meet all deadlines in regard to adding, dropping, or changing the status of a course. 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 as legitimate circumstances.

Academic Assistance: The Learning Center (TLC) provides free tutoring services that empower students to achieve academic success. Trained peer tutors are available to review course content, answer questions, and demonstrate effective study strategies. TLC offers individual appointments and group sessions (PASS) for hundreds of undergraduate courses. For more information or to make an appointment, visit www.wku.edu/tlc

Students with disability: In compliance with University policy, students with disabilities who require academic and/or auxiliary accommodations for this course must contact the Student Accessibility Resource Center (SARC) located in Downing Student Union, room 1074. The SARC can be reached by phone number at 270-745-5004 [270-745-3030 TTY] or via email at sarc.connect@wku.edu. Please do not request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a faculty notification letter (FNL) from The Student Accessibility Resource Center. For more visit <http://www.wku.edu/sarc/>

This course is offered through Blackboard, which is in conformance with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0 Priority AA, issued December 2012 by Deque Systems. For more information on Blackboard and its development, please visit the [Blackboard Accessibility webpage](#)

Title IX/ discrimination & harassment: Western Kentucky University (WKU) is committed to supporting faculty, staff and students by upholding WKU's [Sex and Gender-Based Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation](#) (#0.070) and [Discrimination and Harassment Policy](#) (#0.2040). Under these policies, discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct based on sex/gender are prohibited. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it to the

Title IX Coordinator, Deborah Wilkins, 270-745-5398 or Title IX Investigators, Michael Crowe, 270-745-5429 or Joshua Hayes, 270-745-5121. Please note that while you may report an incident of sex/gender based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct to a faculty member, WKU faculty are “Responsible Employees” of the University and MUST report what you share to WKU’s Title IX Coordinator or Title IX Investigator. If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, you may contact WKU’s [Counseling and Testing Center](#) at 270-745-3159.

Topics: (If necessary, subject to change)

Date	Topic
Week 1: May 31- June 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction: Science & Geology • Geologic Time • Geological Principles • Plate Tectonics
	Exam #1: June 3 (Friday) , between 7am & 7pm CST
Week 2: June 6-10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minerals • Igneous Rocks • Metamorphic Rocks • Weathering Processes
	Exam #2: June 10 (Friday) , between 7am & 7pm CST
Week 3: June 13-17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sedimentary Rocks • Crustal Deformation & Mountain Building • Running Water • Groundwater
	Exam #3: June 17 (Friday) , between 7am & 7pm CST
Week 4: June 20-24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volcanoes & Volcanic Hazards • Earthquakes • Mass Wasting • Climate Change
	Exam #4: June 24 (Friday) , between 7am & 7pm CST

Grading:

Exam #1:	25%
Exam #2:	25%
Exam #3:	25%
<u>Exam #4:</u>	<u>25%</u>
Total	100%

Grades are based on straight percentages (or slightly curved, ONLY if warranted). Example:
90% - 100% = A; 80% - 89% = B; 70% - 79% = C; 60% - 69% = D; and below 60% is not passing = F.