ABOUT THIS COURSE
This course is about how the Earth works, and how we know how it works based on scientific evidence. The course will touch on most of the major Earth processes, but some effort will be made to focus in particular on processes that impact humans or that are impacted by humans. Topics covered will include, but not be limited-to, the following.

Formation of Earth  Plate Tectonics  Rocks-and-Minerals
Geologic Time   Fossils & Evolution of Life  Volcanoes
Earthquakes     Mountain-Building  Streams & Earth-Surface Processes
Water Resources & Groundwater  Mineral Resources & Energy  Glaciers & Global Change

LEARNING OUTCOMES: Upon completion of this course, students should have: (1) a basic understanding of the scientific method, (2) an understanding of the principle processes involved in Earth genesis and evolution, (3) a grasp of the fundamental concepts of plate tectonics, the rock cycle, and geologic time, and (4) a realization of the ways in which Earth science impacts society on a daily basis.

YOUR GRADE will be determined as follows:
Exams on Lecture Material (4?)  75%
Laboratory Work  25%

LECTURE MATERIAL & TEXTBOOK
The lecture section of the course meets in EWS 209 on Tues. & Thurs. Readings from the textbook Essentials of Geology, by Stephen Marshak (4th edition) will be assigned for most lectures. You may purchase the textbook online or in local bookstores.

http://books.wwnorton.com/books/978-0-393-91939-4/

EXAMS
Exams on lecture material will be 50 multiple-choice questions. The first three exams will be given in-class. The fourth exam will be given in the normal lecture location during the scheduled final exam period. Each exam will be on material covered during the 9-10 lectures that precede the exam.

LAB EXERCISES
You have been assigned to a laboratory sections connected to this lecture offering of GEOL101. Please also remember that LABORATORY EXERCISES ARE WORTH 25% OF YOUR GRADE IN THIS COURSE (i.e., LAB IS NOT OPTIONAL). The Laboratory Manual in Physical Geology, edited by R.M. Busch (9th edition) is required for the laboratory portion of the course. Please be sure to bring your lab manual with you to your lab meetings.

Laboratory meetings will begin during the first full week of classes (August 27th to 31st)

BLACKBOARD & POWERPOINT
Course documents will be posted on Blackboard at http://blackboard.sc.edu/. Everything related to this course will be posted in this one place connected to this lecture portion of GEOL101. All course documents, including PowerPoint presentations from each lecture will be posted on Blackboard under ‘Content’. If you don’t have Microsoft PowerPoint installed on your computer, you may
download a PowerPoint Viewer for free from the web link listed below. This will allow you to view PowerPoint presentations without purchasing the PowerPoint software.


COMMUNICATION
All of my mass communication to you will be in-person during class and by email through Blackboard. It is therefore important that you are able to login to the Blackboard web site, and that your correct email address is entered into Blackboard.

OFFICE HOURS: after class or other times by appointment.

HOW TO DO WELL IN THIS CLASS
1. Attend lecture, take notes and participate. Focus your reading efforts on the portions of the book that will supplement and reinforce the lecture material.
2. Prepare for the exams by learning the information and concepts presented in lecture. Use the Power Point presentations, which will be available online through Blackboard, to guide your exam preparation. Remember that exam questions will come entirely from lecture/Power Point material!
3. Attend lab and do all of the laboratory assignments.

USC policies allow instructors to assess a grade penalty for any student missing more than 10% of class periods.

Attendance at all labs is mandatory. A doctor's note is required for any missed lab. Please notify the instructor when you have a legitimate reason for missing a lecture. Students are responsible for obtaining any material presented at missed lectures.

Cell Phone Policy: Use of cellular and mobile phones, pagers, etc., during either lecture or lab time is inappropriate and will not be accepted. Turn off all such electronic communication equipment before entering the lecture hall or laboratory.

THE USC CODE OF ACADEMIC RESPONSIBILITY WILL BE ENFORCED. (http://www.sc.edu/academicintegrity/honorcode.html)
INTELLECTUAL AND ACADEMIC HONESTY IS EXPECTED OF ALL CLASS MEMBERS.