Geology 101 - Introduction to the Earth
Fall 2013 Syllabus

Lectures: MWF 1:10 pm – 2:00 pm, Room PSC 210
Labs: Meet individually by section, Room EWS 102 or EWS 104

Instructor Christian Cicimurri (pronounced chee-chee-more-ee)
Office: EWS 511 or McKissick Museum
Phone: 777-4477
Email: cicimurr@mailbox.sc.edu (this is your best option)
Office hours: Wednesdays 12:00 noon-1:00 pm
Or by appointment (please email me with times you’re available)

BULLETIN INFORMATION
GEOL 101 - Introduction to the Earth (4 credit hours)
Three lectures and one laboratory session each week.

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course introduces the science of Geology, with an emphasis on the physical processes that form and transform the Earth, especially those that impact humans. Sample topics include, but are not limited to, the following: rocks & minerals, plate tectonics, fossils & evolution, geologic time, earthquakes, volcanoes, mountain building, streams & ocean processes, glaciers and global climate changes.

LEARNING OUTCOMES
Upon successful completion of this course, you will:
1. Have a basic understanding of the scientific method
2. Be able to explain the main processes that formed and changed the Earth
3. Comprehend the basic concepts of plate tectonics, the rock cycle, and geologic time
4. Know how to interpret the significance of popular media reports about the Earth
5. Be able to apply the language of science, and in particular, Earth science
6. Understand the ways in which Earth science impacts society on a daily basis

REQUIRED MATERIALS:
(ISBN 978-0-393-12432-3)
Paperback, loose leaf bound, or ebook formats are fine.

You’ll need your own spiral bound copy.

i>clicker remote to participate in lecture.

RECOMMENDED: SmartWork homework module (included with new texts or ebooks)
CLASS PARTICIPATION
I will monitor your participation in lectures by using a classroom response system (called i>clicker). This system will not only record your class participation, but it will also help me to evaluate what concepts you understand. Questions will be drawn from lectures and readings, and should help you to review the material for exams. The i>clicker remote is a required piece of equipment for this class, and should be brought to every class. I will begin to record participation through i>clicker on Wednesday, August 28.

For this to work, it is important for everyone to participate fairly – each student should only have THEIR OWN i>clicker remote. Any student found with more than one remote will lose participation points for themselves AND for the owners of other remotes.

Attendance Policy:
When you miss class, you miss important information. If you are absent, you are responsible for learning the material covered in class. I will make the lecture slides available through Blackboard as soon as possible after class, however I do this as a courtesy, and to help you study. I am not required to make them available.

LAB EXERCISES
This course has a REQUIRED laboratory component, so you should be registered for one of the 13 lab sections. Attendance in all lab meetings is MANDATORY and no make-up labs will be offered, therefore absences will significantly affect your grade. You will need a physical copy of the lab manual (not an ebook). Lab meetings begin during the first full week of class (August 26th – 30th). Lab grades are evaluated by performance on in-class handouts, on weekly quizzes, and through a cumulative final exam.

Lab Coordinator: Craig Cunningham, ccunningham@geol.sc.edu
IA for Sections 16, 18 & 19: Darrell Terry, dterry@geol.sc.edu
IA for Sections 15, 17 & 20: Natalie Umling, numling@email.sc.edu
IA for Sections 14, 22 & 25: Amanda Williams, quigleae@email.sc.edu

EXAMS
All exams will be based on lecture material and readings. There will be four non-cumulative, 1-hour exams consisting of 50 multiple choice or true/false questions. The first three exams will be given during the normal class meetings, with the fourth mandatory exam held during Final Exam week on December 12, at 12:30pm. If you are unhappy with a grade or miss one of the midterm exams, you have the option to take a CUMULATIVE make-up exam scheduled on Monday, Nov. 25 during lecture. No additional make-up exams will be offered.

EXTRA CREDIT
Class participation will count toward potential extra credit points – this means that if you come to class and participate by answering lecture questions with your i>clicker, you’ll earn extra credit points. If you answer 91-94% of the questions, you’ll earn 1 extra credit point on your final grade; 95-97% will result in 2 extra credit points; 98% and higher will earn 3 extra credit points.
I may also offer extra credit activities during the semester (more details will be announced). Extra credit assignments are optional, and will contribute no more than 5 points to your grade. No individual extra credit will be assigned that is not available to the entire class.

HOMEWORK & QUIZZES
To help students assess their progress in mastery of class content (what the majority of your grade is based on), quizzes and homework assignments will be posted on Blackboard or in the SmartWork homework module. These assignments are optional, but they are the best way to test yourself in the format of the exams. (They also count towards borderline grade decisions.)

GRADING
Lecture Participation – 10% (evaluated by i>clicker response)
Laboratory Participation – 30%
   Attendance and performance (10%)
   Weekly Quizzes (10%)
   Lab Final (10%)
Exams - 60%
Extra Credit – up to 5 points to final average

Grades will be assigned as follows:
   90-100%   A
   80-89%    B
   70-79%    C
   60-69%    D
   Below 59% F

HOW TO SUCCEED IN THIS CLASS
Readiness to learn means that you will come to class having read the assigned material and are prepared to participate. In addition, successful students will:

• Take notes during class and while completing reading assignments.
• Attend lab and complete all lab assignments. Study for lab quizzes.
• Prepare for exams by reviewing lecture presentations, readings, and lecture notes, and by utilizing posted homework & quizzes.
• Consider studying with a partner or small study group. (Self-tests are more useful than just reading notes.)
• Check Blackboard often for announcements and posted course content.

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR
You are expected to behave in a manner befitting a university student in class. Any deviations that produce distractions for other students or the instructor may result in ejection from the class or being dropped from the class list. This prohibition includes the use of computers and other electronic devices to Twitter, update Facebook, watch movies, play video games or any other recreational activity. It might be quiet, but the students behind you will watch what you are doing.
and, therefore, be distracted. So, any use of laptops after class time begins for anything except taking class notes must be pre-approved. Cell phones must be turned off during class.

All you should need is a notebook, pen/pencil, and your own i>clicker remote.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**
You are expected to practice the highest possible standards of academic integrity. Any deviation from this expectation will result in a minimum academic penalty of your failing the assignment, and will result in additional disciplinary measures including referring you to the Office of Academic Integrity. Violations of the University's Honor Code include, but are not limited to using another student's work, using another student's i>clicker in class, and any other form of academic misrepresentation. For more information, please see the Honor Code at [http://www.housing.sc.edu/academicintegrity/honorcode.html](http://www.housing.sc.edu/academicintegrity/honorcode.html).

*Remember that the first tenet of the Carolinian Creed is, “I will practice personal and academic integrity.”*

**DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS**
Reasonable accommodations are available for students with a documented disability. If you have a disability and may need accommodations to fully participate in this class, contact the Office of Student Disability Services: 777-6142, TDD 777-6744, email sasds@mailbox.sc.edu, or stop by LeConte College Room 112A. All accommodations must be approved through the Office of Student Disability Services.

I reserve the right to adjust or make changes to this syllabus and the schedule as necessary during the semester.