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 those 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:
I use total points: There will be three tests, lab and quiz points that all go into one big bucket of points. Your total points as compared to class points will determine your grade on the standard scale of 90%=A etc. You can think of your lab grade as the 4th test if you like. I will have the Lab IA give me ONE GRADE for lab and it will weight in as the 4th test.

LECTURE MATERIAL & TEXTBOOK
The lecture section of the course meets in EWS 209 on Mon, through Thurs. Readings from the textbook Essentials of Geology, by Stephen Marshak (4th edition) will be assigned for some 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 exams will be given in-class. Each exam will be on material covered during the 9-10 lectures that precede the exam.

QUIZZES
Random daily quiz: 2 reasons for a quiz; large number of absences on any given day. If I decide I am mostly talking to myself in class while everybody else is on their smart phone. These are random, unannounced quizzes that cannot be made up.

LAB EXERCISES
You have been assigned to a laboratory sections connected to this lecture offering of GEOL101. Please also remember that LABORATORY EXERCISES ARE A MAJOR PART OF YOUR GRADE IN THIS COURSE (i.e., LAB IS NOT OPTIONAL). Labs begin Tuesday January 26th

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 PowerPoint 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.