

**GEOS 101X: " THE DYNAMIC EARTH"
PHILOSOPHY, GOALS, POLICIES
Spring 2014 (TR 2–3:30 pm) Reichardt 201A**

INSTRUCTORS:

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Office hours TR 9–11 am, MF all day: drop by or make an appointment

TEACHING ASSISTANTS:

Section F01: Wednesday 6:00–9:00 PM: TA: Paul Wilcox pwilcox5@alaska.edu
Section F02: Wednesday 1:00–4:00 PM: TA: Paul Wilcox pwilcox5@alaska.edu
Section F03: Tuesday 6:00–9:00 PM: TA: Demi Mixon demi.mixon@gmail.com
Section F04: Thurs. 9:45 AM–12:45 PM: TA: Rachel Frohman rfrohman@alaska.edu
TA office: Reich 312

GEOS 101X "THE DYNAMIC EARTH" is the 1st part of the Geology Department's core science offering. In this course we (the teaching assistants and instructors) will try to acquaint you with **WHAT SCIENCE IS ALL ABOUT** and our current understanding of **HOW THE EARTH WORKS**. This will require memorizing a few names (rocks, minerals, structures, major time periods), but mostly we will emphasize how we know what we know. This class is part of the Baccalaureate science core. Students **must** have a background of at least high school algebra (qualified to enroll in MATH 105) and English (qualified to enroll in ENGL 111).

TEXTBOOKS AND MANUALS:

The lab manual is one that we have put together and is simply identified as 'GEOS 101 Lab Manual'. **BRING YOUR LAB MANUAL TO EACH CLASS (LECTURE)!!!!!!!**
The textbook is: *The Essential Earth* (2nd Ed.) by Tom Jordan and John Grotzinger. This book is available in the bookstore or you can order it used online or even buy the e-book for \$43 from: <http://ebooks.bfwpub.com/essentialearth1e.php>. You can use another Intro Geo textbook, and read the appropriate corresponding chapter.
Readings are from both Jordan & Grotzinger and the Lab Manual

TEACHING (and—hopefully—LEARNING) STRATEGY

Our focus is on 'teaching by doing' lab and homework exercises. In lecture, we will present information related to doing the pre-lab exercise and being prepared for a given laboratory exercise. The advantage of attending lecture is that you will both understand the relevance of, and be better prepared for, the upcoming lab. Reading and homework assignments (see attached syllabus) accompany each lecture. **You will find it helpful to look over the reading assignment before the appropriate lecture.**

You will do the pre-lab exercise both to acquire the background and to show us how well you understand the background to the lab. This allows us to spend the laboratory period **doing** the lab exercise rather than lecturing about it. Depending on the lab, you may finish it all in the lab period, or you might need to finish the overview questions later, after lab. Finally, to make sure that you understand the topic we present in lab and lecture, you will do a homework problem that will be due after you've completed the laboratory exercise for the associated topic. Homework assignments will begin in class on Thursdays and are due at the start of class the following week. If you miss a Thursday, please email me and turn in the assignment on time.

To pass this course, you will need to complete—in a timely manner—13 (of 14) homework, 13 (of 14) laboratory exercises, and the Final Project. You must also attend class and YOU MUST ATTEND THE FINAL TWO LABS (FIELD TRIPS). The field trips are critical for you to really see the relevance of what we've presented concerning geology and the earth.

We encourage you to work in groups for the labs (if you enjoy doing so) but please use your own words and **DO NOT** copy anyone else's work!!!! Please refer to the Student Code of Conduct on p. 52 of the 2013–2014 UAF Catalog. If you have a documented disability that requires additional time on homework assignments or labs, or if you require other accommodation, please let us know within the first two weeks of the semester. The Office of Disability Services implements the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and ensures that UAF students have equal access to the campus and course materials. We will work with the Office of Disability Services (474-5655) to provide reasonable accommodation to students with disabilities. *The key is that if you are having problems in the class, see the TA or professor ASAP and we will try to help you.*

LABS

The first labs will meet Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, January 21–23. Written laboratory reports from a given week are due **at the start** of the following week's lab. A weekly “pre-lab” is due IN LECTURE **at the start** of class each Tuesday, and each one is worth 10% of that lab grade. **If you do not hand in your pre-labs, your lab grade automatically drops by 10%.** The purpose of the pre-lab is to get you ready for the lab exercise, which is why it is due before the lab. I automatically deduct 1 point if you hand it in after the start of class. Our Thursday lectures should provide the information you need to do the pre-lab before the Tuesday class. If, after coming to the Thursday lecture, you are still unsure about the pre-lab questions, come to the Sunday afternoon help session or contact your TA or instructor.

Additional notes concerning Labs:

1. Plan to bring your lab manual, a pencil, paper, and a calculator to each lab session.
2. You can make up a missed lab **if and only if** you have a really good reason and have notified your TA before the lab you will miss. You must arrange at that time when you will make it up. Some labs require extensive setup and your TA may not be able to prepare a lab especially for you on short notice.
3. It is possible to attend a different lab section **with approval** from the appropriate TA; however, make sure that you are registered for the lab time that you attend most often.
4. We will make every attempt to promptly return graded lab and homework exercises; consequently, we cannot accept materials turned in late (see Late Policy on next page).
5. Lab sections are **3 hours long**. We have designed these labs to run the full time for students who have attended lecture, completed the pre-lab, and have read the lab manual. If you aren't prepared it's likely to take you SIGNIFICANTLY longer than 3 hours or you may not be able to finish it. Please come prepared.

HOMEWORK

Exercises will begin in class on Thursday and are due the following Thursday at the start of lecture. I urge you to set aside a regular time each week to work on homework and pre-lab assignments. The assignments are designed so that you can work on them over the weekend.

HELP SESSION (for HW, pre-labs, and labs): SUNDAYS 2–5, ROOM 230 (THE LAB)

GRADING POLICY

You must complete 13 of the 14 homeworks and 13 of the 14 labs (including pre-lab). This gives you the opportunity to drop the lowest grade or not be penalized for one missed lab. **YOU MUST ATTEND THE FINAL TWO LABS (FIELD TRIPS).** All homework, lab reports, and Final Project must be handed in by 5 PM on Monday, May 5.

13 homeworks	— 15% of grade
13 labs	— 50% of grade
2 exams	— 20% of grade
Final Project	— 15% of grade

If you are missing more than 2 homeworks or labs prior to drop date (Jan. 31) or withdrawal date (March 14) you will receive (copy to your advisor) a written request to drop the course. We may drop you from the course if you've done minimal work, but don't count on it. If you do minimal work, this indicates that you don't mind getting an F.

Late Policy: Any pre-lab, lab report, or homework handed in after the due date and time will be docked 1 point per day late. Homework or lab reports handed in after the graded assignment has been returned to the rest of the class will be docked 50%. [Exception: documented illness. If in doubt, talk to one of us.] Lab reports not submitted will receive a grade of 0%, even if you attended the lab. Remember that 1 lab and 1 homework grade will be dropped, so if you miss one deadline, it's not going to be a disaster. A habit of doing so, however, WILL be a disaster.

Plagiarism Policy: It is fine to work with other students, but you *must use your own words* in answering a question. If two or more students hand in essentially identical lab or homework exercises, we will investigate and probably give the students involved a score of 0%.

A final word of advice: Attendance of lectures is required and will be assessed with the homeworks. Further, it is our experience that students who regularly attend lecture are more apt to turn in their assignments on time, be better prepared for lab (so they can get through in the allotted time), and get higher grades for the class.

THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS

- Attend Class
- Bring your lab manual to class and lab each day.
- Do the required reading before class.
- Work on the Pre-lab BEFORE it is due on Tuesday.
- Hand in assignments ON TIME.
- Ask questions if you do not understand something or have problems with the class.
- Take advantage of Office Hours for the instructors and TAs.
- Ask questions and participate in discussions IN CLASS.
- HAVE FUN!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

