SYLLABUS FOR NS 1311:  
INTRODUCTION TO GEOLOGY

FALL 2008  
4 CREDITS

INSTRUCTOR:  
THOMAS HINCKLEY

CLASS:  
M-W-F  1:30 - 2:45
FAB 409

LAB:  TUESDAYS  1:35 - 3:50
FAB 409

OFFICE HOURS:  
THURSDAYS 2:15 - 3:30 + TUESDAY 10:00 – 11:20
AND BY APP’T IN FAB 404

PHONE:  6816  
E-MAIL: thinckley

TEXT:  
Exploring Geology by Reynolds, et.al.

COURSE GOALS:  For each student...

1) to develop a greater interest in science
2) to gain an understanding of important geological facts and concepts
3) to learn and appreciate how modern science works through inquiry and laboratory exercises in which the student will:
   - generate hypotheses based on observations and prior knowledge
   - design inquiry that allows hypotheses to be tested
   - deduce the expected results
   - gather and analyze data to compare results to expected outcomes
   - make and communicate conclusions and generate new questions raised by observations and results
4) to develop an understanding of geological principles in the context of human activities
5) to develop critical thinking skills in the context of scientific study
6) to learn various study skills such as test preparation and vocabulary building

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

GRADING:  
Three Exams  30%
Quizzes  20%
Lab Work  15%
Chapter Investigations  10%
Presentation  10%
BYLTP Questions  10%
Attendance  5%
TESTS:

Three unit tests will be given during the semester. Each will cover multiple chapters. The last one will be given during exam week and will cover only a small amount of material from previous tests. The format will be a mixture of objective and writing questions. Tests may be improved for better grades according to a policy given elsewhere.

QUIZZES:

Due to the importance of keeping up with the material, several quizzes will be given. They will be announced and may cover individual or multiple chapters. Quizzes may be retaken in their entirety if the initial grade was below 70%. For any grade higher than that, only specific parts may be retaken, to be determined after discussion with the instructor. Retakes must be taken within one week of the day the quiz is handed back.

LABORATORIES:

Labs will be held weekly for approximately two and one quarter hours. In general, the labs will follow the topics covered in class, but this will not always be so.

Attendance in lab is very important. If, for any reason, you are going to have to miss a lab, please inform the instructor as soon as possible. If absent, you will need to make up the lab at a convenient time.

In most cases, a lab report will be due one week after the lab is held. The form of each lab will vary, but they must be neat and typed. Presentation will be part of the lab grade. The lateness policy for labs is given elsewhere. Like other written work, labs may be revised for a higher grade.

CHAPTER INVESTIGATIONS:

At the end of each chapter is an “Investigation”. Most of these will be done as class exercises, but some of them will also be assigned for grades. The assignment policy, handed out separately, will pertain to the graded investigations.

PRESENTATION:

Toward the end of the semester, students will be assigned to do a presentation on a topic of interest in current Geology. The details for this work will be handed out separately at a later time.
READING AND WRITING ASSIGNMENTS:

Reading will be assigned for most class periods. Students are expected to be prepared for discussions on the material. Students should also expect to apply active reading strategies.

Several additional assignments will be given to help reinforce the text reading and class work. These will be questions taken from the end of each two-page reading segment called “Before You Leave This Page Be Able To” aka BYLTP. Not BYLTPs will be assigned, but students should pay close attention to each of them because some test and quiz questions will be chosen from BYLTP.

Unless arrangements with the instructor have been made prior to the due date, late work will be graded lower and will not be accepted beyond one week late. This policy is detailed in another handout.

Writing assignments will be handed back with suggestions for improvement. Optional revisions may be made to improve the initial grade, to be due anytime before the last day of the semester. Revisions may also be mandatory in some cases.

ATTENDANCE:

Attendance in class and lab is, of course, important for success in any class, and it counts for 5% in this one. Students need to document each absence by e-mail. After 4 absences, each absence will incur a 10% deduction from the 5 points of the class grade. It is possible that mitigating circumstances will allow some deductions to be waived; thus, that is why it is important to document all absences. Nonetheless, students are expected to keep up with the class work and adhere to deadlines even when they are not in class.

STUDY SKILLS:

As mentioned, students will be expected to apply active reading strategies independently. However, other skills will be taught more explicitly, primarily through modeling: concept mapping, laboratory skills involving both inquiry and hands-on tasks, test taking, vocabulary building, summary writing, and critical thinking skills.

The instructor will work with each student to learn and develop these skills throughout the semester and suggest ways to improve them. Students are expected to help monitor and to take personal responsibility for their own progress.

PLAGARISM AND CODE OF CONDUCT:

These school-wide policies are detailed in separate handouts as well.
## COURSE OF STUDY: SCHEDULE

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<th>Week</th>
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<th>Topic</th>
<th>Text Chapters</th>
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<td>9/2 - 9/5</td>
<td>Nature of Geology</td>
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<td><strong>LAST TEST DURING EXAM WEEK</strong></td>
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