Semester/Year: Fall 2006
Lecture Hours: Variable
Internet Lab Hours: Sat.9-4, Sun. 8-3, Dates TBA
Credit Hours: 4

Class Time: Variable  Days: Variable  Lab Room: TM 121

Instructor's Name: Melissa V. Connely
Instructor’s Contact Information:
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Course description: Covers processes that resulted in the present topography and the past events and the fossil or evolutionary response to changing geography through time. Includes: energy reserves, pollution, ecology, mineral resources, the earth framed as a planet, and the solar system.

Statement of prerequisites: None

Goal: The goal of this course is to provide a basic understanding of Earth Science Systems to students who plan to make education their career choice as well as to students who wish to gain a general knowledge of geology. Geologists are directly involved in the search for new energy and mineral supplies, as well as mitigating the environmental impact of such activity. Whether these activities will be successful or not, all members of society will be affected. It is hoped that this course will provide a basis of knowledge for those who must make important decisions in the future, both the producers (earth scientists) and the consumers (individuals and society) or who have an influence on a future generation who will also need to make these choices. It is also hoped that the student will gain an awareness and understanding of their natural surroundings and will be able to see their dynamic, changing earth in a new way.

Outcomes: Passing students should:
1) Understand the scientific method, specifically, how the Law of Gravitational Attraction, Big Bang Theory and Theory of Plate Tectonics help explain formation of the Universe, Our Solar System, and Planet Earth
2) Use the scientific method to solve problems introduced in a laboratory setting, including hands on studies of minerals, rocks, and maps
3) Be able to identify and understand the processes of forming minerals, rocks, earthquakes, volcanoes and geologic structures that shape the Earth’s crust
4) Understand how interactions between Atmosphere, Hydrosphere, and Lithosphere shape Earth’s surface through surficial processes (streams, glaciers, dunes, waves, and landslides)
5) Understand geologic time including: the evolution of life based on the fossil record, dating of Earth’s history, and specific examples of Wyoming’s geologic history over the past 4 billion years
6) Understand the interactions between humans and the Earth through studies in ecology, mineral resources, energy sources, and pollution
7) Be able to demonstrate their knowledge of these concepts and how to present them to others as required in the outcomes for co-requisite EDCI 1450

Methodology: This course will consist of readings in the required textbook, and mandatory laboratory exercises designed to cover the main facets of physical geology, and online discussions and homework assignments. Students will get an opportunity in lab to examine at first hand the materials making up the earth and to examine some of the processes, which are shaping the earth. Student evaluation will be as objectively as possible through the use of regularly scheduled quizzes. Students must attend at least four of the 6 lab class meetings or make other satisfactory arrangements with lab kits. Additional exercises may be mailed out for you to do on your own time. Furthermore, this is a lab based course. If you do not pass the lab, you cannot pass the course. Carefully read all assigned material, and, above all, ask questions when confused or unsure.

Evaluation criteria: Evaluation criteria: Students will be evaluated through homework, quizzes and exams, labs, and participation. Labs are 25% of the total grade. Exams, quizzes, homework and participation will be 75% of the total grade. There are a total of 4 exams.

Special Note on Labs: There are 3 weekend labs scheduled (2 days each). Students must attend 2 of the 3 weekends (or a total of 4 days) to pass the lab. You will need to attend all three weekends to receive full credit. For students who live out of town and cannot attend the live labs will need to purchase a lab kit that they can complete at home. Instructions on how to submit work for grading will be listed on your webct homepage under the Lab links.

Grade Scale: A: 100-90%; B: 80-89%; C: 70-79%; D: 60-69%; F: <60%

Required Text, Readings, and Materials: Earth Science Today by Murphy and Nance. Other resources may be needed; details will be posted on your Webct homepage. (Optional Lab Kit: Geology Laboratory Manual for Distance Learning by Ruhle.)

Class Policies: It is likely that some small problems will crop up in an asynchronous (anytime, anywhere) class. Relax, don’t worry, enjoy yourself! The problems can be taken care of. The most important thing to remember is to read the text, plan ahead for quizzes and exams, and make sure to attend the lab meetings or complete the lab kit. And, just like a traditional class, ask questions when unsure or confused. Many assignments have specific due dates. Make sure you know when things are due as they will not be accepted past the due date. Plan accordingly.

Last date to Change to Audit Status or to withdraws with a W Grade: TBA

Student Rights and responsibilities: Please refer to the Casper College Student Conduct and Judicial Code for information concerning your rights and responsibilities as a Casper College Student.

Chain of Command: If you have any problems with this class, you should first contact the instructor in order to solve the problem. If you are not satisfied with the solution offered by the instructor, you should then take your problem through the appropriate chain of command starting with the department head, then the division chair, and lastly the vice president for academic affairs.

Academic dishonesty- Cheating and Plagiarism: Casper College demands intellectual honesty. Proven plagiarism or any form of dishonesty associated with the academic process can result in the offender failing the course in which the offense was committed or expulsion from school. See the Casper College Student Code of Conduct.
**ADA Accommodations Policy:** It is the policy of Casper College to provide appropriate accommodations to any student with a documented disability. If you have a need for accommodation in this course, please make an appointment to see me at your earliest convenience.

**Calendar or schedule indicating course content:** The course has been broken down into 8 "Units." They are not the same units that are described in your book. Each Unit covers a two-week period. See your webct class for details. This is a tentative schedule, changes may occur throughout the semester, advance notice will be posted on your Webct Homepage. Due dates for all exams and homework will be posted on your webct.