CASPER COLLEGE COURSE SYLLABUS
Geology 1100 N1, Physical Geology (online version)

Semester/Year: Spring 2016
Lecture Hours: 3  Lab Hours: 2  Credit Hours: 4
Class Time: ONLINE  Days: ONLINE  Room: NA

Instructor’s Name: Dr. Beth Ann Wisely
Office: Tate Museum Room 105
Office Phone: 307-268-2233
Email: bwisely@caspercollege.edu

Office Hours, on-campus:
M 1:00-2:00 pm, T 4:00-6:00 pm, W 10:00-11:00 am, Th 11:00 am -1:00 pm

**The best and fastest way to contact me is via email. I check my email frequently and will do my best to answer in less than 24 hours, often responding much sooner.**

Course Description: Geology 1100 N1 is a survey lab science course covering the composition and geologic features of the earth, and the processes that formed them. As a digital learning course, some interaction among classmates will take place in online forums throughout the term.

Corequisites:

**As this is an online course, it is each student’s responsibility to secure continuing access to a reliable computer and internet access through the entire length of the semester.**

All students enrolled in this course are responsible for checking his/her Casper College email account for communications from the instructor.

*Note your instructor’s email address: bwisely@caspercollege.edu*

Goal: The overarching goal is that the student become conversant in the scientific method and be able to use it to become informed consumers of scientific information. It is also expected 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 understand Earth’s internal structure, how rocks and minerals form, and how plate motions cause earthquakes and build volcanoes and mountains. In labs students describe and identify minerals and rocks, use earthquake data, evaluate geologic hazards, and interpret geologic structures. Casper College General Education Outcomes covered by this course include:

- Demonstrate effective oral and written communication
- Use the scientific method
- Solve problems using critical thinking
- Use appropriate technology and information to conduct research
- Use quantitative analytical skills to evaluate and process numerical data

Methodology: This course will consist of text readings, laboratory exercises, online forum discussions, online open-book quizzes, and several closed-book, proctored exams (see Exams course document for proctoring information). Students must complete lab exercises from a take-home lab kit. Since this is a lab-based course, if you do not pass the lab portion, you cannot pass the course.
Carefully read all assigned material, and, above all, ask questions when confused or unsure. All course assignments are linked through the Moodle course website. Under the Course Documents block in Moodle, you will find detailed information regarding the course material and requirements. The course is divided into 4 Units, as seen on the Moodle course webpage. Each Unit block contains a Unit Summary of Assignments. These are key documents for tracking your upcoming assignments.

**Evaluation Criteria:** Student evaluation will be as objective as possible with a variety of labs, quizzes, discussion forums, Geotours, and exams. Please see the Course Documents pertaining to each portion of your grade percent listed below.

**Forums ~9% - 3 mandatory forums**  
**Pre-quiz and Chapter Quizzes ~ 27% - 1 Pre-quiz and 13 Chapter Quizzes**  
**Lab Lessons ~26% - 8 labs total (you must pass the lab portion of the course to pass the course.)**  
**Geotours ~18% - 9 workbook exercises in GoogleEarth**  
**Exams ~20% - 4 Unit Exams**

TOTAL 100%

**Grade Cutoffs**
A: 89%+, B: 80-88%, C: 70-79%, D: 60-69%, F: <60%

**Required Text, Readings, and Materials:**

**TEXTS:**

**LAB KIT:**
*Introductory Physical Geology, Laboratory Manual for Distance Learning* (Kit and Lab Manual), by Coast Learning Systems. **Make sure you purchase a fresh kit that includes the access code to the lab manual web site! You will need this! I cannot be responsible for an incomplete kit you buy from another source! - REQUIRED**

**Class Policies:** It is likely that some small problems will crop up in an asynchronous (anytime, anywhere) class. Relax, don't worry, and enjoy yourself! The problems can be taken care of, and no technical problems will affect your grade. The most important thing to remember is to read the text, plan ahead for quizzes and exams, participate in the discussions, and complete the lab kit. And, just like a traditional class, ask questions when unsure or confused. Most assignments have specific due dates. They cannot be made up. Make sure you know when things are due as they may not be accepted past the due date. Plan accordingly. There are no extra credit opportunities for this course.

**Last date to Change to audit status or to withdraw with a W Grade:** Check the Casper College Academic Calendar.

**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 to attempt to solve the problem. If you are not satisfied with the solution offered by the instructor, you should then take the matter through the appropriate chain of command starting with the Department Head/Program Director, the Dean, and lastly the Vice President for Academic Affairs.
**Academic Dishonesty:** (Cheating & 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 for more information on this topic.

**Official Means of Communication:** Casper College faculty and staff will employ the student's assigned Casper College email account as a primary method of communication. Students are responsible to check their account regularly.

**ADA Accommodations Policy:** If you need academic accommodations because of a disability, please inform me as soon as possible. See me privately after class, or during my office hours. To request academic accommodations, students must first consult with the college’s Disability Services Counselor located in the Gateway Building, Room 344, (307) 268-2557, bheuer@caspercollege.edu. The Disability Services Counselor is responsible for reviewing documentation provided by students requesting accommodations, determining eligibility for accommodations, and helping students request and use appropriate accommodations.

**General Course Schedule:** The course has been broken down into 4 Unit blocks in Moodle, where you will find opening and closing dates for all assignments in a *Summary of Assignments* listed as the first linked document in each block. The summaries clearly lay out the course requirements for that period. All assignments for each unit must be completed by the closing dates posted. See the following chart of unit descriptions for the general content and timing of each unit.

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<td>Chapters 1-4</td>
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