Course Title: Geology of Oregon and the Pacific Northwest
Course Number: GEOLOGY 308

Instructor Contact Information
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New Registrations
If you have recently registered for this class, or would like to be registered for this class, and have questions or are in need of assistance, please e-mail the Program Assistant at disted@uoregon.edu. After you register you will receive information via e-mail on how to access the course website.

Introduction
- This online version of Geology 308 is designed for students with limited science backgrounds.
- Because much of the important material in the book is in graphic form or in block diagrams, students should pay close attention to both the text narrative and the many illustrations and diagrams to fully understand the ideas and concepts. Students should also take note of the illustrated glossary near the end of the textbook for definitions of geologic features and processes.
- There are no prerequisites for this course.
- Instructor approval is not required to register for this course.
- Wait-listing is available for online courses except for summer term. If a course is full, students can add themselves to the wait-list via DuckWeb. Wait-listing FAQ: http://registrar.uoregon.edu/help/waitlisting/faq.
- Students are required to use their "uoregon.edu" e-mail address to correspond with the instructor.
- This course requires independent study with help available from the instructor. There are no class meetings or field trips.
- Students must complete three exams and a course project on or before their respective deadlines. There is no final exam in this course.

Online Course Information
Distance education courses like this one work best for experienced students who are really comfortable with studying and learning on their own. If you are the type of learner who likes the structure of a classroom and who wants direct contact with an instructor, a live class on campus would probably work better for you.

Although Geology 308 is designed for students with limited science backgrounds, we expect students to work hard and learn a lot in this course.

Enrolled students will have access to the entire online course through our Blackboard course site. At a minimum, the work for this class involves studying the Geology Short Course, then carefully reading the contents of each assigned chapter and working with the study guide questions in our Blackboard course site. These questions are the bases for the exam questions in our course.

Testing and proctoring for this online geology course is administered through the Social Science Instructional Laboratory (SSIL). Visit their website at http://distanceeducation.uoregon.edu for more information. Students living in the Eugene area take their exams at the SSIL facility on the UO campus. The SSIL staff proctors these exams. Off-campus students need to follow the instructions in the SSIL website to arrange for a SSIL-approved proctor for their exams. Exams in this course are taken by computer and consist of multiple-choice and short-answer questions.

Course Description
The Pacific Northwest is home to a variety of geologic regions, each with its own distinctive geologic history and geologic features: coastal and interior mountains, volcanoes, broad valleys, lava plains, deep canyons, glacial areas, and much more. The variable landscape of the Pacific Northwest is due in large part to prominent events in its geologic history and to geologic activity at the Earth's surface.
Geology 308 begins with a short, but intensive study of basic geology using an online short course available in our Blackboard course site. This short course will enable students to understand many of the terms and concepts used in the textbook. Next, assigned readings from the textbook give students an overview of the geology of each of the major geologic regions of the Pacific Northwest. Studies focus on the geologic history, features, and events that make each region distinct.

In addition to three proctored exams, this course requires a project in the form of an illustrated term paper, a web page, or a PowerPoint file. Each student chooses a project topic that deals with some aspect of Pacific Northwest Geology. See the short description below. Details of project completion are given in our Blackboard course site.

**Course Objectives**

The principal objective of this course is to learn about the geologic features of the various regions of the Pacific Northwest and the processes by which they formed. To help in this endeavor, students will use the online Geology Short Course and the textbook to learn basic geologic concepts and terms that they can apply to their studies of the Pacific Northwest.

The objectives of this course also include learning about:

a. large-scale movements of the outer “shell” of the earth that are responsible for the origin and spatial distribution of mountain ranges, chains of volcanoes, and other large features (we refer to these movements and their consequences, such as mountain building, as “plate tectonics”);

b. processes that form the igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic rocks that make up the Pacific Northwest region, and the basic classifications and the characteristics of the most common rock types in each category;

c. ways that rock masses respond to forces within the earth by either bending (folding) or breaking (faulting);

d. changes in the configuration of the earth’s surface caused by the weathering and erosion of rock;

e. reconstructing the geologic history of an area by using geologic concepts to interpret past events and using the geologic time scale to establish the chronological sequence of these events.

**Textbook**

Orr, Elizabeth, and Orr, William, Geology of the Pacific Northwest (2nd ed).

**Ordering Textbooks**

Course textbooks can be purchased at the UO bookstore in Eugene, either in-person or by placing an order for mail delivery. Questions or problems can be directed to the course books manager, Bruce Lundy at either 541-346-4331 or blundy@uoregon.edu. You will need to make your purchase with a credit card when requesting mail delivery.

**Course Structure**

This course uses the Blackboard course management system. Access information will be e-mailed to students once they have registered for the course. Course information and tools, including detailed Study Guides, are located in our Blackboard course website. For access-related questions or help relating to the course website, contact the Academic Extension Program Assistant at disted@uoregon.edu.

**Part 1:** Geology Short Course, Cornerstones of Pacific Northwest Geology, Cascade Range, and Klamath Mountains. The study guide for Part 1 is located in Unit 3 of our Blackboard course site.

Readings for exam 1:

Geology Short Course (online)
Textbook chapters:
1. Cornerstones of Pacific Northwest Geology
4. Cascade Mountains (pages 73-78, 87-106, 109-112, only)
5. Klamath Mountains

**Part 2:** Blue Mountains, Central Idaho, Snake River Plain, Owyhee Uplands, and Basin and Range. The study guide for Part 2 is located in Unit 5 in our Blackboard course site.

Readings for exam 2:
Textbook chapters:

6. Blue Mountains
7. Central Idaho (pages 165-175, only)
8. Snake River Plain and Owyhee Uplands
9. Basin and Range

Part 3: Columbia River Plateau and Coast Province of Oregon and Washington. The study guide for Part 3 is located in Unit 7 of our Blackboard course site.

Readings for exam 3:

Textbook chapters:

10. Columbia River Plateau
11. Coast Province of Oregon and Washington

Examinations

There are three separate exams, each covering roughly one-third of the text material. The second and third exams are not comprehensive, so each exam is a stand-alone test over the assigned portions of the textbook. Exams consist of multiple-choice and short-answer essay questions. Exams must be completed in a 2-hour period.

Exams will be taken at designated proctoring locations and are administered by the Social Science Instructional Laboratory (SSIL). See their website for instructions and to schedule exams, available at http://distanceeducation.uoregon.edu.

Exam Deadlines

There are three exams required over the course of term, and each must be completed by a given date. For a current list of exam deadlines, refer to the information in the Blackboard course site.

Discussion Forum

This course uses the Blackboard course delivery system. Included as part of the course website is an interactive threaded discussion forum.

Course Project

- Each student will assemble a course project during the term. The project will consist of information pertaining to the course that has been obtained from a variety of media sources. Each student will choose a topic from a list available in our Blackboard course site, research it online and/or in the library, and write a summary that captures the most essential ideas of the topic. Details of the project, both the written summary and the visuals, are up to the student's own creativity.

- The format of the project is up to the student. Three popular formats are 1) text with embedded illustrations, 2) a web page, and 3) PowerPoint. No matter which format is chosen, the project must contain a summary of at least four net pages of text and at least ten illustrations to qualify for a B grade or higher.

- Students should complete a computer-sensible form of their project and submit it to the instructor, using the directions in our Blackboard course site.

- Additional details pertaining to the project are given in the Blackboard site for this course.

Grades

Course Grades:

Grades are available on Duck Web approximately the week after the last day of finals. Once grades become available, students needing transcripts with current term grades may place an order with the Registrar in advance for mailing. Please refer to the “Transcripts” section of the Office of the Registrar’s website.

Exam Grades:

Grades for each exam are available upon submission of the exam, and may be reviewed by following the instructions in the Grading Policies/Exam Grades section of the syllabus in our Blackboard course site. The final grade will be determined as follows:

1st exam: 30%
2nd exam: 30%
3rd exam: 20%
Course project: 20%
Geology Short Course

The Geology Short Course was prepared by Dr. Greg Miles. It provides general background information about the geologic sciences. Students who have not previously taken geology courses, or students who would like a review of general materials, would benefit from this summary. Exam 1 will include some questions from the Geology Short Course.

Accessible Education Center

If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please contact a counselor in The Accessible Education Center. They are located in 164 Oregon Hall, Eugene, Oregon. Phone 541-346-1155. E-mail: uoaec@oregon.uoregon.edu.