

Fall 2008
PHS 180 - Evolution of the Earth Lecture
Kirkwood Community College
Iowa City Campus

Instructor: John Dawson

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OFFICE HOURS: MWF 10:00 – 11:00 am.

T 1:00-2:00 pm.

Th 9:00-10:00 am

I'm always willing to meet with students outside of class. That's what I'm here for! Feel free to drop by to see me or you can always arrange a time to meet with me

Lecture: 9:00-9:50 AM MWF, 3 credit hours.

Room: 158 Iowa City Campus

Synonym & Section Number: 083762 PHS-180-ICF01

Text: Earth System History, 2005, 2nd ed. – Stanley.

Course Materials and Updates are in CE6: <http://www.kirkwood.edu/elearning/>

Course Description:

Considers interdisciplinary principles, techniques and methods essential to the interpretation of the geological history of the earth. The development of plate tectonics and continental drift through geological time and the progression and evolution of life from Pre-Cambrian time to present time are also examined.

Theme: One theme in this course this semester will be to look at the geologic history of Iowa and occasional other neighboring states. The goal of this will make you aware of the natural environments in your community and how geology impacts your life.

General Learning Objectives:

- 1) Learn about science:
 - i) Gain knowledge of basic science principles and theories.
 - ii) Develop a scientific vocabulary.
 - iii) Become comfortable with science and dealing with science issues.
- 2) Practice scientific skills:
 - i) Know how to identify key variables, develop models, and carry-out solutions
 - ii) Practice logical thinking skills.
 - iii) Use scientific reasoning to evaluate real world issues.
- 3) Practice college level study skills:
 - i) Be able to take usable notes from a lecture setting.
 - ii) Know how you best learn new material, and use that to your advantage.
 - iii) Identify your weak areas, and develop strategies to strengthen them.

Lab: You are not required to take both the lecture and laboratory portions of this course. However, it is suggested that you take the lab also, since you will have a chance to re-enforce concepts with hands on activities.

Student Success at Kirkwood:

The best suggestions for success are: 1) attend class, 2) do homework and reading assignments, 3) take and use notes, and 4) seek out help and ask questions.

General Attendance Policy:

I expect you to attend every class. You will be responsible for all of the material covered, so if you miss a class you better get a copy of the notes from one of your peers. In my experience, poor attendance generally means poor performance. Some assignments require your attendance in order to get credit for them – please see the make-up policy below.

General Learning environment Expectations:

Please try to be on time and plan on being in class the entire time. Reading should be done ahead of each class so that we can have fruitful discussions about the daily topics. I WILL RANDOMLY CALL ON STUDENTS – be prepared to answer my questions. Please respect those students sitting around you in class – WHEN I AM LECTURING, YOU SHOULD NOT BE TALKING. I will dismiss students from class that are disruptive. Cell phones and other personal electronic devices must be turned off (NO TEXTING!). No food or drink in the environmental science lab. Do not turn on the computers in the lab, unless I have given you permission. No open toed shoes (sandals, flip-flops) in the science lab.

Course Evaluation:

Course evaluation will be based on quizzes, homework assignments, in-class assignments, short in-class essays, and exams. +/- grading will be used. Final grades will be based on the total points obtained at the end of the semester out of the total available points. You can calculate your current grade at any point in the semester by adding up all your scores and divide it by how many points are possible. A grading curve will be applied if **absolutely** necessary and only at the end of the semester.

Homework: Homework is designed to help you learn the material outside of class and at your own pace. The majority of the homework assignments will be online through CE6. Additional homework assignments may be assigned randomly during the semester.

In-Class Essays:

There are two essays in this course. For these essays you will be asked to answer a question in 2 to 3 pages. You will be graded on having a well formulated and thorough argument that uses the correct geologic terms and concepts while answering the questions. I will give you more information about the essays in class.

Quizzes:

Quizzes will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. There will be about 10 quizzes during the semester. Quizzes will be announced at least one class period in advance. Quizzes could be in the format of partner quizzes, group quizzes, open notes/book, movie worksheet, take-home quizzes, or review quizzes (for exams).

In-Class Assignments:

Randomly in the semester, I will give you a short graded in-class activity. There will not be many of these in the semester and I may not necessarily announce them ahead of time. It is important to keep up on your attendance otherwise you may miss these valuable points.

Exams:

Exams will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. Exam dates are listed on the syllabus. I will only apply grading curves to the exams at the end of the semester if necessary.

Make-ups:

- Exams: Make-ups for exams will be allowed for reasonable and verifiable excuses. Examples of reasonable excuses are: medical emergency, family death, illness that requires doctor's care. I will not allow a make-up for any unreasonable excuse. You will be given 2 class periods to make up the exam and you must take the exam in the Test Center. I reserve the right not to allow a student a make-up for an exam if they have already been granted a make-up exam during the semester.
- Quizzes: Make-up will NOT be allowed for quizzes, but I will drop your lowest 2 scores. If you take all the quizzes, your lowest 2 scores will be calculated as extra credit.

- **Homework:** Homework assignments will not be accepted late unless there is some issue that is out of the control of the student (such as CE6 crashing). I will drop your lowest two homework scores at the end of the semester. If you do all your homework, your lowest 2 scores will be calculated as extra credit.
- **In-Class Assignments:** No make-ups will be allowed for the in-class assignments. However, I will drop your lowest score on these. If you do all the in-class assignments, your lowest score will be calculated as extra credit.
- **Essays:** You will be allowed to hand in your essay late with a penalty on the grade.

Grade Breakdown:

Quizzes: ~100 points total (10 points each).
In-Class Activities: approximately 50 points total.
Homework: approximately 150 points total.
Essays: 50 points each (100 points total)
Exams 1 & 2: 150 points each (300 points total)
Final Exam: 200 points

Note: Your final grade will be based on the total points you obtain out of the total points possible. This is only an estimate of the number of points possible.

Total Possible Points: approximately 900 pts.

****If you need help calculating your current grade, especially if you just need to know how many assignments we have had at any point in the semester, let me know. Otherwise, grades will be recorded in CE6 and I will give you an estimate of your grade after each exam.**

Grade distribution:

A = 100-93%, A- = 92-90%; B+ = 89-87%; B = 86-83%; B- = 82-80%; C+ = 79-77%;
C = 76-73%; C- = 72-70%; D+ = 69-67%; D = 66-63%; D- = 62-60%; F = < 60%.

Kirkwood's Class Attendance Policy and College Sponsored Activities:

Class Attendance Policy: Learning is central to our work at Kirkwood Community College. Faculty design educational experiences to facilitate learning and students learn by engaging in those experiences. Attendance and engagement in all scheduled classes is regarded as integral to learning and is expected of all students.

Kirkwood faculty members identify expectations for learning and attendance in their course syllabi. Students are accountable for the learning outcomes for each session, including those sessions that have been missed. Assessments of learning that occur during an absence may or may not be made up, depending on the policies of the instructor and the nature of the absence. Absences that result from participation in college sponsored activities* will be accommodated, subject to the guidelines listed below. For all other absences, authorization of an excuse is the province of the individual faculty member and subject to the standard appeal process.

College Sponsored Activities:

Students involved in activities where they are required to represent the college, i.e. college-sponsored activities, must give written notice to the faculty member at least one week in advance of the absence unless last minute schedule changes make this notice impossible. If regular season athletic schedules have been developed, student participants must present written notice of anticipated absences within the first week of the semester. Failure to provide timely written notice may result in loss of this opportunity.

Faculty shall accord students the opportunity to independently make up course work or work of equal value, for the day(s) the event was scheduled and to take a scheduled exam at an alternate time. The faculty member shall determine alternate exam times and due dates for missed coursework. These assigned dates may be prior to the date of the absence.

Organizers (coaches, faculty and staff) of college sponsored activities shall 1) assist students in planning class schedules to minimize the number of absences; 2) inform students of their responsibilities as described above; and 3) provide written communications to faculty announcing and verifying the need for

student class absences. Written notices should be provided at the beginning of the semester if the schedule is known, or as soon as possible after the need for a student absence is determined.

* College sponsored activities (excluding practices) include such events as athletic competitions, student academic competitions and conferences, musical and drama performances, and class field trips. Questions on whether an activity is a college-sponsored event for purposes of this policy should be directed to the Vice-President of Instruction. If anticipated absences for a semester appear to be extraordinarily numerous or difficult to accommodate, a faculty member may appeal the need for the full accommodation to the VP of Instruction.

Kirkwood's View on a Productive Classroom Learning Environment:

We believe that the best learning takes place in an environment where faculty and students exhibit trust and mutual respect.

Students promote trust by preparing honest and thoughtful work, and by expecting evaluation based on performance. Faculty promote trust by setting clear guidelines for assignments and evaluations, honest feedback, and by assigning bias-free grades.

Students show respect by being prepared and attending class on time, by paying attention, contributing to discussions, listening respectfully to others' points of view, meeting deadlines, and by striving for their best performance. Faculty show respect by their timeliness and preparedness, by taking students seriously, by valuing their goals and aspirations, and by providing honest feedback.

In a productive learning environment, faculty and students work cooperatively, recognize and respect differences, model the values of character and citizenship, and become lifelong learners.

Plagiarism Policy:

According to Webster, to plagiarize is to "steal or pass off the ideas or words of another as one's own... to use created productions without crediting the source... to commit literary theft... to present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source."

Kirkwood Students are responsible for authenticating any assignment submitted to an instructor. If asked, you must be able to produce proof that the assignment you submit is actually your own work. Therefore, we recommend that you engage in a verifiable working process on assignments. Keep copies of all drafts of your work, make photocopies of research materials, write summaries of research materials, hang onto Writing Center receipts, keep logs or journals of your work on assignments or papers, learn to save drafts or versions of assignments under individual file names on computer or diskette, etc.

The inability to authenticate your work, should an instructor request it, is a sufficient ground for failing the assignment.

In addition to requiring a student to authenticate his/her work, Kirkwood Community College instructors may employ various other means of ascertaining authenticity – such as engaging in Internet searches, creating quizzes based on student work, requiring students to explain their work and/or process orally, etc.

Americans with Disabilities Act:

Students with disabilities who need accommodations to achieve course objectives should file an accommodation application with Student Services and provide a written plan of accommodation to your instructor prior to the accommodation being provided.

School Cancellations:

When Kirkwood classes are cancelled or delayed due to inclement weather, all classes at all locations are cancelled. The announcements will indicate whether the cancellations apply to day or evening classes. The following broadcasters will be notified:

KZIA-FM Z102.9 (Cedar Rapids)

WMT-AM 600

KFMW-FM 107.9 (Waterloo)

KCCK-FM 88.3

KXIC-AM 800 (Iowa City)

KGAN-TV2

KCJJ-AM 1630 (Iowa City)

KCRG-TV9

KSUI-FM 91.7 (Iowa City)

KWWL-TV7

KUNI-FM 90.9 (Cedar Falls)

KHAK-FM 98.1

KDAT-FM 104.5

KCII (Washington)

KRNA-FM 94.1 (Iowa City)

KMRY-AM 1450

KOKZ-FM 105.7 (Waterloo)

Note: If we have inclement weather for the final exam, the make-up will be **December 15** unless another arrangement can be made with the instructor.

Important Dates:

- Exams: September 19, October 24, and December 10 (Final Exam).
- November 11: Last day to drop a class from Kirkwood.
- December 5: Last day for complete withdrawal of classes from Kirkwood.

Course Lecture Schedule

This is a tentative schedule. The lecture topics may change, but the exam dates will not change. The amount of material I will cover in each chapter may vary especially near the end of the semester.

Week	Lecture Topic	Readings
August 19 (first class is Aug. 20)	Introduction Earth as a System	Ch. 1
August 25	Rocks	Ch. 2 Focus on pp. 36 – 45.
September 1	No Class on Monday – College Holiday Diversity of Life	Ch. 3 Focus on pp. 49 – 60.
September 8	Sedimentary Environments	Ch. 5
September 15	Geologic Time Scale and Dating the Rock Record Exam # 1 (Friday, September 19)	Ch. 6
September 22	Evolution and the Fossil Record	Ch. 7
September 29	Plate Tectonics	Ch. 8
October 6	Early Earth and Life	Ch. 11 & 12
October 13	Early Paleozoic	Ch. 13
October 20	Middle Paleozoic Exam # 2 (Friday, October 24)	Ch. 14
October 27	Late Paleozoic	Ch. 15
November 3	Early Mesozoic	Ch. 16
November 10	Cretaceous World	Ch. 17
November 17	Early Cenozoic	Ch. 18
November 24	Early Cenozoic No Class Wednesday & Friday – College Holiday	Ch. 19
December 1	Holocene	Ch. 20
December 10	Final Exam (Wednesday 9-10:50 in our usual room)	