

# SYLLABUS GEOL 101

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## Course Title: Physical Geology

Credit Hours: 5

### Course Description

Study of plate tectonics, rocks, minerals, volcanoes, earthquakes, resources, geologic time, and the processes that affect the surface and the interior of the earth. Laboratory analysis of rocks and minerals. Interpretation of topographic and geologic maps as investigative tools.

Geology 101 is an introduction to geology and earth processes. The lecture will cover a study of plate tectonics, rocks, minerals, volcanoes, earthquakes, resources, geologic time, and the processes that affect the surface and the interior of the earth and the lab will cover analysis of rocks and minerals, and interpretation of topographic and geologic maps as well as aerial/satellite photographs as investigative tools.

This class is fully online. However, one or more proctored exams are required and must be taken at a testing center or with an approved proctor.

### Prerequisite

None

### Textbook Information

#### Required Textbook

*Essentials Of Geology with Mastering Geology + Etext Access Card Bundle*,  
Lutgens, Tarbuck, and Tasa, 12th ed.

#### Other Required Materials

Rock and Minerals Quick Study Guide by Barcharts ISBN #978-157222561-9  
Rock and Mineral set - Blue River

Google Earth software - free download: <https://earth.google.com>

### Course Objectives

Upon the successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of plate tectonics and the relationships to earthquakes, volcanoes, mountain building, and surficial processes.

2. Identify and interpret topographic and geologic maps.
3. Identify and classify rocks and minerals.
4. Explain the processes that form igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic rocks.
5. Describe and classify landforms.
6. Describe the origin, location, and use of geologic resources.
7. Evaluate the interaction of humans and the environment from a geological perspective.

## Communication and Turnaround Time

### Communication Types

**Announcements:** time-sensitive information, posted by the instructor on the Announcement page.

**Messages:** used for personal communication with instructor, send a message through Blackboard using the Messages link in the course.

**Discussions:** questions and answers will be posted in the discussion forums. Regular discussion questions are posted for class interaction.

**General Question Forum:** If you have a general question regarding the course policies and procedures that have not been answered in the syllabus or course orientation materials, use the discussion board forum General Questions. Your question and the instructor's response will be available there to help others who may have the same question.

### Communication Turnaround Time

You can expect all correspondence via discussion board question forum or messaging to be responded to within 24 hours Monday through Friday. The instructor will notify the class if there will be periods of time where responses may be delayed.

## Grades and Feedback Turnaround Time

It is important to keep up with your grades in the class.

Use these links to see how to check your grades and feedback:

[How to check My Grades written tutorial](#)

[How to check My Grades video tutorial](#)

[How to check assignment grades written tutorial](#)

[How to check assignment grades video tutorial](#)

### Expected Turnaround Times

**Discussion Forums** are graded within three days after the due date.

**Quizzes and Exams** with multiple-choice, True/False, matching and other non-essay type questions are auto-graded immediately after you take them.

**Written Assignments** such as papers, essays, and essay questions are graded within one week after the due date.

## Grades

### Percentage Grade:

Syllabus and Chapter Concept Quizzes = 19%

Exams = 36%

Discussions = 7%

Labs = 21%

Chapter Assignments = 17%

### Letter Grades

A = 90-100%

B = 80-89%

C = 70-79%

D = 60-69%

59% or less will result in failing the class

## Assignment Types and Grading Policy (Including Proctored Exams)

### Discussions

Your posts should be free of grammar and spelling errors. You must post at least three substantive messages per unit/discussion forum on three different days to get full credit. Comments should be meaningful, demonstrating in-depth thought and contributing to the overall learning of other individuals in the course.

### Chapter Quizzes and Exams

Each week after reading the assigned chapter(s) in your textbook and viewing the lecture(s) you will complete a short Concept Quiz. The Concept Quiz consists of multiple choice and/or true/false questions designed to assess your comprehension of key chapter concepts as well as the unit learning objectives. Quiz questions are very similar to the Exam questions.

There is a short Syllabus Quiz to help you confirm that you understand the information presented in the syllabus.

There are three unit exams, and a combined unit and comprehensive final exam. Exams have a mixture of question types, including multiple choice and true-false. Each exam covers material from the textbook, lectures, and assignments and each question in the exam is pulled from a pool of related questions, so every exam will be unique. One of the exams is proctored.

## Chapter Assignments

Assignments are designed to help you critically read and comprehend the textbook material. They are also useful as a study tool for the exams.

The assignments are set up to be completed as you read through the chapter. They typically deal with important topics and definitions by having you respond to short answer and short essay questions. You complete the assignments using a word processing program (i.e. Word, Open Office, and Google Drive) and submit the file through the assignment link. Save your file in either docx or pdf format. Answers should be in complete sentences and should adequately answer the question – typically requiring more than just a few sentences. Treat the short answer/essay questions as that – essays. They should be complete paragraphs.

## Labs

This course includes a laboratory component. You will complete a weekly lab exercise using the required Rock and Mineral Set - Blue River and/or the Google Earth program.

You need access to Google Earth software to be able to complete many of the exercises. Links to the free software download can be found here in the Syllabus, or you can find it by using a search engine. Google Earth works best with a fast Internet connection such as cable, DSL, or fiber.

## Proctored Exams

MCC Online students use SmarterProctoring to sign up for a time to take a proctored exam. You can sign up to take the exam in one of the MCC testing centers or with another approved proctor. If SmarterProctoring does not offer a pre-approved proctor in your area, you may find another proctor with the approval of the instructor. Instructions on how to use SmarterProctoring are provided within the course itself.

Please note that if you are testing at one of the MCC locations you will be required to sign up for an available time slot at that testing center before arriving at the site. Even if you are a “walk-in” you will need to use SmarterProctoring to sign up before being allowed to take the test.

## Course Policies

### Non-graded Assignments

There is an assignment in the Introduction Activities that requires you to upload a file through Bb. There is no credit for this assignment.

### Extra Credit

There is no extra credit given.

### Expectations

It is expected that you will access the course at least three times per week. To be successful you should plan to log in and participate multiple times a week. **Daily access is encouraged.**

This class is a five (5) credit hour lecture and laboratory class. If you have never taken a science course online before, understand that this class will require more time commitment and greater work load than just a regular 3-credit hour class. You will be expected to complete both lecture and laboratory content. You should expect to spend 15-30 hours per week on coursework, possibly more if you are taking it in the accelerated format of an eight week course.

### Attendance Policy

Since this course is online, your “attendance” in class is based on meeting assignment deadlines. You must submit work for the class to be considered attending the class. Federal Guidelines require you to login, participate, and submit assignments to be considered attending.

MCC regulations state that an instructor may withdraw you from class after a consecutive absence equating to 15% of the total class time, or after total absences equating to 33% of the total class time. If you fail to submit any work for one week of an 8-week course or two weeks of a 16-week course, you may be withdrawn. If you fail to turn in 33% of your work in the course, you may be withdrawn from the course. An instructor **may** choose to enforce a stricter attendance policy.

***Simply logging in to Blackboard does not count as attendance.***

### Late Work

Due dates for assignments, exams, discussions and other work are posted on the course schedule or calendar. Late assignments are not accepted.

## Drop Policy

It is your responsibility to withdraw from the course if you decide to stop attending. If you choose to drop the course you must complete a drop form and submit it to the campus records office. Check myMCCCKC > Student Center for the specific dates, including the last date to drop your course without assessment (or grade posted) for the course

Before withdrawing, please contact an advisor to determine what if any impact this drop will have on your financial aid.

## Code of Conduct

You are required to follow the [Metropolitan Community College's Student Code of Conduct](#).

## Student Support

If you need technical support for Blackboard, MCC student email, tutoring services, library services, advising or counselling services, please click on the "Student Resources" tab on top of Blackboard after logging in.

## Netiquette

Information on appropriate online conduct can be found in [The Core Rules of Netiquette](#). You are expected to follow these rules and any other specific rules your instructor may require for interacting in the class.

## Satisfactory Academic Progress

In order to continue your eligibility for financial aid you must make satisfactory academic progress toward your educational plan by maintaining a minimum grade point average and successfully completing a minimum number of courses throughout your enrollment at MCC, and completing your educational plan within a reasonable time. Your progress will be reviewed at the end of each semester. More information is available at [Satisfactory Academic Progress at MCC](#).

## ADA

Metropolitan Community College (MCC) is committed to ensuring equal access to all qualified students with disabilities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). If you have a disability which may impact your ability to access or participate in any aspect of your online coursework, please contact the campus Disability Support Services (DSS) Coordinator or your choice. Phone numbers and additional information are listed at [mcckc.edu/disability](http://mcckc.edu/disability). The DSS Coordinator will work with you to determine what disability documentation/information is needed in order to provide

accommodations. Accommodations are determined on an individualized basis and may take some time to put in place, so early notification to DSS is helpful. You can identify yourself to DSS as a student with a disability and request accommodations anytime during your education. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive and may vary based on the nature and requirements of the class.

- [Blackboard Accessibility Information](#)
- [SmarterProctoring Accessibility Information](#)
- [Mastering Geology: ADA and Section 508 Accessibility](#)

## Academic Integrity

The Metropolitan Community College, as an academic community, expects all administrators, faculty, staff, and students to behave as responsible members of the college community and to be honest and ethical in their academic work. MCC strives to provide students with the knowledge, skills, judgment, and wisdom they need to function in society as educated adults. To falsify or fabricate the results of one's research; to present the words, ideas, data, or work of another as one's own; or to cheat on an examination corrupts the essential process of higher education and the values of the Academy.

The Metropolitan Community College expects all students to act according to the rules of academic honesty as outlined in the [Student Handbook](#). What this really means is that you are expected to turn in only your own work and that you will complete all quizzes and examinations unassisted. If you should violate this trust, then you will be treated the same as any traditional student that cheats.

Academic Dishonesty includes:

1. Plagiarism - the intentional use of the ideas or words of another as one's own in a paper or other academic assignment.
2. Cheating during examinations, whether by copying from a fellow student or by using information in the form of unauthorized aids brought to the examination.
3. The submission of work for any assignment that has been prepared by another student.
4. Submission of a single paper to fulfill requirements in two courses without prior approval of the instructors in both courses.
5. Using a false name or signing the name of another individual without proper authorization in connection with any course work.

Disciplinary action will be taken for those students suspected of academic dishonesty. At no point in this course is it acceptable for you to submit someone else's work as your own, or use the ideas of someone else as your own. It is also unacceptable for you to share your own work with another student.

Unilateral Instructor Action – If objective evidence exists indicating that you have practiced academic dishonesty, the instructor may assign a grade of "F" on the paper, examination, or assignment or assign a grade of "F" for the course.

If the instructor feels that a more severe action is appropriate, the complaint may be referred to the division chair and the dean of instruction. The dean has the authority to recommend an action to the president, or the student may request a hearing.

## Grievance

Questions or concerns about any aspect of this course should be directed to the instructor so you and the instructor can work together to resolve any problems that may exist. In the unlikely event that the problem cannot be resolved, then the next step is for you to contact the MCC Online Enrollment Manager at 816 604 4487.

Metropolitan Community College is strongly committed to providing workplaces and classrooms that are free of sexual harassment. MCC will not tolerate any behavior, whether verbal or physical, which constitutes sexual harassment. Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct or communication of a sexual nature are prohibited. To file a complaint, contact the MCC Online Enrollment Manager at 816 604 4487.