



PENSACOLA STATE COLLEGE

Physical Geology – Section Syllabus

GLY 1010, Section D9124

Fall 2025, Session A

Instructor: Vicki Knoch

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Final Exam Date: TBD

Last Date of Drop/Add: August 22, 2025

Last Date for Student to Withdraw: November 4, 2025

Course Description: Using the scientific method, critical thinking skills, data analysis, this course will examine the fundamental processes of the earth system, composed of an atmosphere, hydrosphere, cryosphere, lithosphere, biosphere, and exosphere through time. The course will also explore the interactions between these spheres, including critical analysis of scientific theories and emphasize lithospheric connections with humanity.

Class Meeting Time: Online (asynchronous)

Class Location: Canvas

Semester Hours: 3 credit hours

Prerequisites: Placement at the college level or completion of the appropriate exit-level developmental course(s) with a grade of C or better.

Semester Offered: Fall, Spring

Course Designations: **College Transfer.** Meets AA General Education Core, Natural Sciences (Physical Sciences) requirement.

General Education Core Course Standard: Per Florida Statute 1007.25, "Natural science courses must afford students the ability to critically examine and evaluate the principles of the scientific method, model construction, and use the scientific method to explain natural experiences and phenomena."

Textbook: None. Course materials will be provided in canvas.

Methods of Evaluation: At minimum, the instructor will cover content which aligns with statewide and institutional learning outcomes for the course. The instructor will measure student performance using the following:

- Weekly Discussions
- Summative assessments – Weekly Quizzes, Midterm Exam, Final Exam
- Individual Project
- Peer Assessment

Grading Scale:

Graded Items	Points
Syllabus Quiz (1@ 10 points)	10
Discussions (13@10 points)	130
Quizzes (12 @ 20 points)	240
Assignments (2@20 points)	40
Midterm Exam	180
National Park Project	150
Peer Review	50
Final Exam	200
Total Points	1000

Student Expectations: Students enrolled in this course can expect the following:

1. Clearly identified course objectives;
2. Productive class meetings;
3. A positive learning environment;
4. Opportunities for appropriate student participation;
5. Effective instruction;
6. Positive and appropriate interactions;
7. Assistance with meeting course objectives during and beyond class hours;
8. Evaluation of student performance and appropriate and timely feedback; and
9. Clear and well-organized instruction.

Course Learning Outcomes:

1. Use critical thinking to recognize the rigorous standards of scientific theories.
2. Analyze and synthesize geoscience data to draw scientifically valid conclusions.
3. Recognize the different time scales associated with different geologic processes.
4. Describe interactions between humans and earth's spheres.
5. Apply their understanding of geologic principles to complex issues.
6. Describe the composition of Earth's crust including minerals, igneous rocks, sedimentary rocks, and metamorphic rocks.

7. Discuss the internal forces of the earth resulting in earthquakes, mountain building, volcanic activity, and the processes of plate tectonics.
8. Appreciate the power of external geologic processes on the earth such as weathering and the various methods of erosion.
9. Define and explain erosional processes as wind, groundwater, running water, ice and gravity and the effects they have on the earth.
10. Synthesize the above processes describing how together, and separately, they affect landform development.
11. Apply the concept of geologic time and appreciate how the earth has changed many times over in its long history; creating a massive puzzle for exploration by geologists.
12. Locate the major physiographic provinces of the United States, and to identify each with major geologic processes and common landforms.
13. Appreciate our country's great beauty and become familiar with the major national parks and monuments created by various geologic processes.

General Education Student Learning Outcomes:

Critical Thinking: The student analyzes, evaluates, and, if necessary, challenges the validity of ideas, principles, or data in order to develop informed opinions, probable predictions, or defensible conclusions.

Scientific and Mathematical Literacy: The student properly identifies and applies scientific or mathematical principles and methods.

Information Literacy: The student effectively locates, evaluates, and applies information from a variety of sources.

Academic Dishonesty Statement: Pensacola State College is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic conduct. All forms of academic dishonesty, to include plagiarism and cheating, are prohibited. Penalties for academic dishonesty include but are not limited to one or more of the following: the awarding of no credit on the assignment, a reduction in the course grade, or the assignment of a final course grade of F and removal from the course. See the *College Catalog* for more details:

<https://catalog.pensacolastate.edu/content.php?catoid=2&navoid=47#academic-honesty>

Student Email Accounts: Pensacola State College provides an institutional email account to all students enrolled in courses for credit. This institutional email account is the official method of communication, and students must use this account when communicating with the College. In cases where companion software is used for a particular class, email may be exchanged between instructor and student using the companion software.

Flexibility: It is the intention of the instructor to accomplish the objectives specified in the course syllabus. However, circumstances may arise which prohibit the fulfilling of this endeavor. Therefore, this syllabus is subject to change. When possible, students will be notified of any change in advance of its occurrence.

ADA Statement: Students with a disability that qualifies under the American with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008 (ADAAA) must self-identify with the Student Resource Center for ADA Services (SRC/ADA). Disabilities covered by the ADAAA may include learning, psychiatric, physical disabilities, or chronic health disorders. Students can contact SRC/ADA if they are not certain whether a medical condition/disability qualifies. SRC/ADA is located on the Pensacola campus in building 6, room 603, ADA-services@pensacolastate.edu, 850-484-1637. Students may also complete the online intake form in the ADA Services app within the PSC apps dashboard.

Equity Statement: Pensacola State College does not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, color, gender/sex, age, religion, marital status, pregnancy, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or genetic information in its educational programs, activities, or employment. For inquiries regarding Title IX and the College's nondiscrimination policies, contact the Dean of Students at (850) 484-1759, Pensacola State College, 1000 College Blvd., Pensacola, Florida 32504.

Security Statement: Pensacola State College is committed to encouraging all members of the College community to be proactive in personal safety measures. In case of emergency, students should ensure that they are aware of the building exit closest to each of their classrooms, as well as all alternative building exits in case circumstances require using a different route.

Emergency Statement: In the case of severe weather or other emergency, the College administration maintains communication with appropriate state and local agencies and makes a determination regarding the cancellation of classes. Notices of cancellation will be made through the College's PSC Alert system and on the College's website.