Course Description

Study of the scientific principles that influence our planet, its rocks, mountains, atmosphere, and oceans.

Prerequisites

None

Credits

Upon completion of this course, the students will earn three (3) hours of college credit.

Course Textbook


Course Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Identify the most important elements that compose Earth's continental crust.
2. Explain the processes of weathering, erosion, and mass wasting.
3. Examine the cause of earthquakes and volcanoes.
4. Describe Earth's interior structure and composition.
5. Explain the theory of plate tectonics.
6. Examine ocean currents, the causes of tides, and shoreline erosion.
7. Define the science of meteorology and explain the difference between weather and climate.
8. Examine the formation and forms of clouds and precipitation.
9. Describe air pressure, how it is measured, and how it changes with altitude.
10. Recognize the contributions of Nicolaus Copernicus, Tycho Brahe, Johannes Kepler, Galileo, and Sir Isaac Newton to modern Astronomy.
12. Discuss stellar evolution.

Course Structure

1. **Unit Learning Objectives:** Each unit contains learning objectives that specify the measurable skills and knowledge students should gain upon completion of the unit.
2. **Unit Summaries:** Each unit contains an overview, or summary, of the information to be covered.
3. **Reading Assignments:** Each unit contains reading assignments from one or more chapters from the textbook. Some units have additional readings and resources; links are provided for these readings.
4. **Key Terms:** Key Terms are intended to guide students in their course of study. Students should pay particular attention to Key Terms as they represent important concepts within the unit material and reading.
5. **Learning Activities (non-graded):** Units I and VII have non-graded learning activities to aid students in their course of study.

6. **Discussion Boards:** Discussion Boards are a part of all CSU term courses. Information and specifications regarding these assignments are provided in the Academic Policies listed in the Course Menu bar.

7. **Assessments:** This course contains 8 unit assessments, one to be completed at the end of each unit.

8. **Final Examination:** The student is required to take a Final Exam at the end of Unit VIII. Final examinations are to be administered to students by an approved proctor on a date that is mutually convenient. You are permitted four (4) hours to complete this exam, in the presence of your approved proctor. This is an open book exam. Only course textbooks and a calculator, if necessary, are allowed when taking proctored exams.

9. **Ask the Professor:** This communication forum provides you with an opportunity to ask your professor general or course content related questions.

10. **Student Break Room:** This communication forum allows for casual conversation with your classmates.

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**Final Examination Guidelines**

Final examinations are to be administered to students by an approved proctor on a date that is mutually convenient. The student is responsible for selecting a qualified proctor that must be approved by the university.

A list of acceptable proctors is provided in the Examination Proctor Policy. To review the complete Examination Proctor Policy including a list of acceptable proctors, proctor responsibilities, proctor approval procedures and the Proctor Agreement Form, go to the MyCSU Student Portal from the link below.

http://mycsu.columbiasouthern.edu

Proctored Final Exams are taken online. To request your proctored final exam, select the designated links found in the online course. You are permitted four (4) hours to complete this exam, in the presence of your approved proctor. This is an open book exam. Only course textbooks and a calculator, if necessary, are allowed when taking proctored exams.

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**Communication Forums**

These are non-graded discussion forums that allow you to communicate with your professor and other students. Participation in these discussion forums is encouraged, but not required. You can access these forums with the buttons in the Course Menu. Instructions for subscribing/unsubscribing to these forums are provided below.

[Click here for instructions on how to subscribe/unsubscribe and post to the Communication Forums.](#)

**Ask the Professor**

This communication forum provides you with an opportunity to ask your professor general or course content questions. Questions may focus on Blackboard locations of online course components, textbook or course content elaboration, additional guidance on assessment requirements, or general advice from other students.

Questions that are specific in nature, such as inquiries regarding assessment/assignment grades or personal accommodation requests, are NOT to be posted on this forum. If you have questions, comments, or concerns of a non-public nature, please feel free to email your professor. Responses to your post will be addressed or emailed by the professor within 48 hours.

Before posting, please ensure that you have read all relevant course documentation, including the syllabus, assessment/assignment instructions, faculty feedback, and other important information.

**Student Break Room**

This communication forum allows for casual conversation with your classmates. Communication on this forum should always maintain a standard of appropriateness and respect for your fellow classmates. This forum should NOT be used to share assessment answers.
Grading

Discussion Board (8 @ 2%) = 16%
Unit Assessments (8 @ 8%) = 64%
Final Exam = 20%
Total = 100%

Course Schedule/Checklist (PLEASE PRINT)

The following pages contain a printable Course Schedule to assist you through this course. By following this schedule, you will be assured that you will complete the course within the time allotted.
By following this schedule, you will be assured that you will complete the course within the time allotted. Please keep this schedule for reference as you progress through your course.

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<th>Unit I</th>
<th>Discovering Earth Science and its Materials</th>
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<td>Unit Study Guide</td>
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<td><strong>Read:</strong></td>
<td>Introduction to Earth Science</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Chapter 1: Minerals: Building Blocks of Rocks</td>
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<td>Chapter 2: Rocks: Materials of the Solid Earth</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Discuss:</strong></td>
<td>Discussion Board Response: submit your response to the Discussion Board question by Saturday, Midnight (Central Time)</td>
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<td><strong>Submit:</strong></td>
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| Notes/Goals: |

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<td><strong>Read:</strong></td>
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<td>Chapter 4: Glacial and Arid Landscapes</td>
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<td><strong>Discuss:</strong></td>
<td>Discussion Board Response: submit your response to the Discussion Board question by Saturday, Midnight (Central Time)</td>
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<td><strong>Submit:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Discuss:</strong></td>
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<td>Assessment by Tuesday, Midnight (Central Time)</td>
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</table>

| Notes/Goals: |
# Course Schedule

## Unit IV
**Igneous Activity and Geologic Time**

**Review:**
- Unit Study Guide

**Read:**
- Chapter 7: Fires Within: Igneous Activity
- Chapter 8: Geologic Time

**Discuss:**
- Discussion Board Response: submit your response to the Discussion Board question by Saturday, Midnight (Central Time)
- Discussion Board Comment: Comment on another student’s Discussion Board response by Tuesday, Midnight (Central Time)

**Submit:**
- Assessment by Tuesday, Midnight (Central Time)

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## Unit V
**Oceans**

**Review:**
- Unit Study Guide

**Read:**
- Chapter 9: Oceans: The Last Frontier
- Chapter 10: The Restless Ocean

**Discuss:**
- Discussion Board Response: submit your response to the Discussion Board question by Saturday, Midnight (Central Time)
- Discussion Board Comment: Comment on another student’s Discussion Board response by Tuesday, Midnight (Central Time)

**Submit:**
- Assessment by Tuesday, Midnight (Central Time)

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## Unit VI
**Earth’s Atmosphere**

**Review:**
- Unit Study Guide

**Read:**
- Chapter 11: Heating the Atmosphere
- Chapter 12: Moisture, Clouds, and Precipitation

**Discuss:**
- Discussion Board Response: submit your response to the Discussion Board question by Saturday, Midnight (Central Time)
- Discussion Board Comment: Comment on another student’s Discussion Board response by Tuesday, Midnight (Central Time)

**Submit:**
- Assessment by Tuesday, Midnight (Central Time)

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Notes/Goals:
### Unit VII: The Atmosphere in Motion and Weather Patterns and Severe Weather

**Review:**
- Unit Study Guide

**Read:**
- Chapter 13: The Atmosphere in Motion
- Chapter 14: Weather Patterns and Severe Weather

**Discuss:**
- **Discussion Board Response:** submit your response to the Discussion Board question by Saturday, Midnight (Central Time)
- **Discussion Board Comment:** Comment on another student's Discussion Board response by Tuesday, Midnight (Central Time)

**Submit:**
- Request to Take Final Exam
- Assessment by Tuesday, Midnight (Central Time)

### Unit VIII: The Solar System and Beyond

**Review:**
- Unit Study Guide

**Read:**
- Chapter 15: The Nature of the Solar System
- Chapter 16: Beyond the Solar System

**Discuss:**
- **Discussion Board Response:** submit your response to the Discussion Board question by Saturday, Midnight (Central Time)
- **Discussion Board Comment:** Comment on another student's Discussion Board response by Tuesday, Midnight (Central Time)

**Submit:**
- Assessment by Tuesday, Midnight (Central Time)
- Final Exam by Tuesday, Midnight (Central Time)