

**Lancaster High School**  
Science Department**Syllabus: Geoscience 1**

Teacher: Mr. Pat Hayhurst

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Although it is officially called Geoscience 1, I will commonly refer to this class as Geology. Students should be familiar with the Internet and how to use it. If Internet access is not available at home you will need to arrange to have Internet access at school or elsewhere as soon as possible.

**What is Geology?**

Geology is the study of the earth and the process that have shaped it.

**Course Description**

**Geoscience 1** examines the disciplines within geology and oceanography, including major concepts of seismology, volcanology, hydrology, paleontology, mineralogy, and petrology. By examining the composition, structure, process and dynamics of these systems, students gain a clearer understanding of their planet.

**Geoscience 1 is a college-preparatory course fulfilling the laboratory science requirement for admission to the University of California system. You can expect this course to rigorous and challenging.**

**Rationale for taking Geology**

An understanding of Earth systems is a practical pursuit. The informed citizen must recognize the causes and implications of natural hazards such as earthquake fault zones, volcanic regions, and flood zones. Knowledge of the mechanisms behind such hazards allows the citizen to plan and make educated decisions affecting their economic and personal well-being. By exploring our planet, we also gain a clearer understanding of the capabilities of our technological society and of the natural resources that sustain it.

**Teacher Responsibilities**

My job is to be your teacher; so therefore, it is my responsibility to teach **you**. If you are having trouble with a topic in the class, you can expect that I will make time to give you extra instruction; all you have to do is ask me. You can also expect me to have a positive attitude and enthusiasm for this class. It is my job to do my best to make the class as interesting as possible. I will also do my best to motivate you by any means necessary. My job also includes that I keep order in the classroom, therefore I will use any form of discipline I feel is necessary in order to maintain an environment of learning.

**Student Responsibilities**

I want all of my students to understand that the teacher is only one part of the education process. I can teach, but if you are not motivated to learn, you won't. The student's responsibility is to learn. In addition to that, **your grade is your responsibility**. If you are having problems, it is also your responsibility to come and see me personally for extra instruction. Lastly, you are also responsible for your **own behavior**.

**Student Requirements**ONLINE ASSIGNMENTS

In this class you will have numerous assignments, which are posted online. In order for you to view the online assignments you will have to log onto the Prentice Hall site that accompanies our textbook. Go to the URL listed below and follow the directions from there. There will be several online quizzes per chapter.

[http://wps.prenhall.com/esm\\_lutgens\\_essentials\\_9/](http://wps.prenhall.com/esm_lutgens_essentials_9/)

### TEXT BOOK

The text we will use for this course is Essentials of Geology by Lutgens/Tarbuck. This book will be assigned to you and you will be required to complete reading and study assignments out of it. Much of the chapter reading will be assigned as homework but we will have assignments to complete in class so therefore you will have to **bring your book to class each time we meet.**

### NOTEBOOK

Each student will be required to keep a single subject notebook. I require a **three-ringed binder**. I would suggest that it be either a 3/4" or a 1" and start with at least 100 sheets of paper. In this notebook you will be required to keep all of your homework, notes, quizzes, lab activity sheets and tests. At the beginning of the class each day you will write down the "question of the day" from the board along with your answer. **You are required to have your notebook with you in class everyday.** You should only have work for this class in your notebook, and you should keep science work only in this notebook. It is important to keep a good notebook and take good notes because all tests will be open-notebook style. I will spot-check notebooks for completion of all assignments. When I collect notebooks, I check for neatness, completion, and order. If everything in your notebook is neat, orderly, and complete, you will receive a perfect score.

### ABSENCES and MAKE-UP WORK

Due to the nature of this class, it is recommended that you make every attempt to be in class each day the class meets. If you are absent, it is **your responsibility** to get your make-up work for the days you were absent, not mine. Most assignments will be made available for you on **Edline** and notes can be copied from your lab partner or other student in class. If you are absent on a day when an assignment is due, the next time you are present you will be required to turn in the assignment at the beginning of the period in order to receive full credit. If you miss a test or a quiz, you will be required to take the test/quiz the next day you return. There will be some assignments and participation points that can't be made up; that is why it is in your best interest to be in class everyday. If you are going to be absent and you know about it in advance, please notify me as soon as possible so that we can plan work for you. If you fail to turn in an assignment on its due date you may turn it in on the next class day for one letter grade lower. **If you do not have the assignment complete by the next class meeting you may not turn in the assignment and you will automatically receive a zero for the assignment grade.**

### EXTRA CREDIT

Extra credit assignments are not required. The only form of extra credit that will be allowed is a current event article report that will be turned in along with a copy of the article. You may turn in no more than one per week except during finals week in which you cannot turn in any.

I will occasionally award extra credit points for donating supplies not afforded to us in the regular setting. I also reserve the right to give extra credit points for any activity I deem necessary in order to motivate students or generate school spirit.

### **Grading Policy and Procedure**

The percentage breakdown for the assignment of letter grades will be as follows: 100-90 = A, 89-80 = B, 79-70 = C, 69-60 = D, 59 and below = F. I also reserve the right to curve this grade scale at any time I feel it is necessary.

Tests will be worth a possible of 100 points. Tests are given usually once every three weeks. Notebooks, when collected, will be worth 50 points. Lab assignments will be worth approximately 20 to 60 points, depending on the time spent on the lab. Online Quiz questions will be worth one point for each item. Points will be assigned to all other assignments as necessary. Your updated grades can be found on **the Power School website** and will be updated following each test or at least twice each month.