

# GEOL 10100-01 - Introductory Geology Laboratory Syllabus

## Mode of Instruction: In-Person

*Section 011: Monday and Thursday: 11.30 to 12.45 pm.*

Hunter North, Room 1021

**Spring 2024**

Instructor: Dr. Shruti Philips

Office: HC North, Room 1041

Office Hours: *Mondays 12.45 to 1.45 pm or by appointment*

E-mail: [shruti.philips@hunter.cuny.edu](mailto:shruti.philips@hunter.cuny.edu) (communications to me must have GEOL 101 in the subject line and you must sign your full name as it appears in CUNYFirst)

Companion website: <http://www.geo.hunter.cuny.edu/geology/>

### **Brief description/purpose of course:**

GEOL 101, Introductory Geology Lab, is a hands-on laboratory science course. GEOL 101 assists you, in learning and expanding your understanding of the scale of the Earth and the forces that shape it with hands-on laboratory and field experiences. This course will serve as an introduction to the earth sciences and will prepare you for further coursework in the Environmental Studies program. It will also give you a working knowledge and vocabulary to take other physical geography and geology courses. Moreover, it will introduce you to some of the cutting-edge technologies used in the earth sciences, potentially drawing some of you into an earth science related career path. In general, there will be a 1:2 ratio between lecture and lab work over the course of each week.

The objectives and goals of this course include:

- An understanding of the nature of science and the scientific method.
- The importance of thinking critically about scientific data.
- A basic understanding of the rocks and minerals that make up the earth and the ability to identify the most important types of rocks and minerals and how they are formed (the rock cycle).
- A basic understanding of plate tectonics.
- An understanding of the vastness of geologic time, the Principle of Uniformitarianism and how geologists assess the ages of geologic features.
- An understanding of the formation and distribution of natural resources and the costs and benefits of their extraction.

This course will fulfill the **Common Core Requirement for category C, Life and Physical Sciences**.

### **Learning Outcomes:**

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Describe the key components of the scientific method.
- Describe and identify rocks and minerals based on detailed observations.
- Relate geologic processes and the distribution of rocks, minerals and geologic resources to the theory of Plate Tectonics.
- Interpret geologic cross sections with respect to geologic time and the rate of geologic processes.

**Course Structure:** This course will be taught in-person on the Hunter College campus. The **Hunter College Blackboard** site will have a “**Weekly coursework**” page. For each lab topic there will be folder containing recommended reading, additional learning materials, and a link to submit the lab exercise. Students are expected to check the site regularly and keep up with the material.

**Required textbook:**

- **Laboratory Manual in Physical Geology**, By AGI American Geological Institute, NAGT - National Association of Geoscience Teachers, Vincent Cronin, Dennis G. Tasa, Pearson, 12/e, 2021  
ISBN-13: 9780135836972
- Please make sure that you bring to each class the following items: a pen, No. 2 pencil(s), eraser, calculator, metric ruler, and colored pencils. All other lab materials will be supplied by your instructor.

**Course evaluation/grading:**

<b>Assignments</b>	<b>Weighting</b>
8 labs	40% (5% each)
3 practical exams	40%
Geology of New York Assignments	10%
Attendance	10%

While the exams are technically not cumulative, material covered in the latter part of the course is dependent on the material from the earlier part of the course. Do NOT miss an exam. Make-up exams will NOT be given except under the most extraordinary circumstances such as documented illness, documented death in the family, documented alien abduction, etc. Make up exams will be given at a mutually convenient time and while they will cover the same information as the original exam, the questions and/or practical materials will be different.

- A final grade of **IN** (incomplete) is not normally given in this course except, again, under the most extraordinary and documented circumstances. You must contact me within 48 hours of the scheduled day/time of the final exam and complete a Contract to Resolve an Incomplete Grade. Otherwise, I will average your laboratory, exam, and attendance and participation grades and record what you have earned.
- **Pass/No Credit Option:** You have the option to request a grade of Pass/No Credit for this course. To receive this grade, you must submit the request for a Pass/No Credit grade by completing the form linked to the registrar's website (<https://hunter.cuny.edu/students/registration/register-for-classes/credit-no-credit/#instructions>). The form must be submitted by 11:59 pm the day before the last day of classes. The decision is irrevocable. In order to qualify for a Pass/No Credit grade, you must complete all the requirements for the course, including attendance, assignments, exams, and the final exam/project. To Pass, you must earn at least a D. If you stop attending, stop submitting assignments, and/or do not take the final exam, you receive a grade of WU (Unofficial Withdrawal), which cannot be converted to Pass/No Credit, and may affect your financial aid status.
- As per CUNY, an **Unofficial Withdraw (WU)** is assigned to students who **attended a minimum of one class**. It is important to understand the definition of a WU and the difference between this grade and an F grade. The conditions for assigning the WU grade include:
  1. A student's enrollment has been verified by the course instructor, and
  2. The student has severed all ties with the course at any time before the final exam week and, consequently, has failed to complete enough course work -- as specified in the course syllabus -- to earn a letter grade, and
  3. The student has not officially withdrawn from the course by completing the process for a W grade, or made arrangements to receive an INC.

### **Classroom policies:**

There is no texting permitted in the classroom—turn your phones off. Earphones are not to be worn in the classroom either on ears or around your neck. No electronic devices are allowed during exams. No food or drink is allowed in the laboratory. Samples and equipment must be handled gently.

### **Laboratory Preparation:**

Come to class prepared. I expect you to have read the laboratory exercise listed for each class *prior* to the beginning of that class period. Laboratory exercises are complex, and if you do not read them before class, you will have difficulty turning them in on time.

- You will complete the **lab exercises** that are in the lab manual for each lab and **submit them via Blackboard** (as a word document). A link will be available in each module for you to submit your lab exercise.
- Grading of your laboratory exercises will be based on the quality and accuracy of the observations, explanations, answers to questions and conclusions. The grading of your laboratory exercises will be as follows: **5=excellent, 4=good, 3=fair, 2=poor, 1=terrible, 0=not handed in.**
- Each laboratory exercise will include the following sections: **an introduction, charts, and tables that you will fill in on the appropriate pages of your lab manual, answers to the questions posed in the AGI Laboratory Manual, Results/Discussion, and a conclusion.** You must include the relevant figures, charts, graphs, etc., that a given question and/or answer refers to.
- The introductions and conclusions of your labs must be in your own words. You may work with other students at your table, but each of you must turn in your own work.
- Answer all questions in full sentences. **DO NOT RECOPY THE QUESTION.** Rather, answer the question so that the question is implicit in the answer. For instance, if the question is “What color is the rock on table A?” your answer might be “The color of the rock on table A is gray.” An unacceptable answer would be “gray.” Use proper grammar and spelling. If you aren’t sure of the spelling use a dictionary. A very convenient online dictionary can be found at [www.m-w.com](http://www.m-w.com).

## Tentative Syllabus for Spring 2024

Dates	Laboratory Assignment
Th 1/25	Introduction and Lab-1 Filling your Geoscience Toolbox
M 1/29	Lab 1
Th 2/1	Lab-1
M 2/5	<i>Lab 1 due</i> ; Lab-2 Plate Tectonics
Th 2/8	Lab-2
Th 2/15	Lab-2
Th 2/22	<i>Lab-2 due</i> ; Lab-3 Mineral Identification
M 2/26	Lab 3
W 2/28	Lab-3
Th 2/29	Lab-3
M 3/4	Lab-3 Review of minerals
Th 3/7	<i>Lab-3 due</i> ; <b>Mineral Practical test</b>
M 3/11	Lab-5 Igneous Rocks and Processes
Th 3/14	Lab-5
M 3/18	Lab-6 Sedimentary Rocks
Th 3/21	<i>Lab-5 due</i> Lab 6
M 3/25	Lab-6 Sedimentary Environments
Th 3/28	Lab-6
M 4/1	<i>Lab 6 due</i> ; Lab 7- Metamorphic Rocks, Process, and Resources
Th 4/4	Lab-7
M 4/8	<i>Lab-7 due</i> ; Lab 4 -The Rock Cycle: overview of all rocks
Th 4/11	<b>Central Park Field Trip</b>
M 4/15	Rock review <i>Lab-4 due</i> .
Th 4/18	<b>Rock Practical Test</b>
<b>SPRING BREAK</b>	
Th 5/2	Lab-8 Dating of Rocks and Geologic Events <i>Geology of NY assignments due</i>
M 5/6	Lab-8
Th 5/9	Lab-8
M 5/13	<i>Lab-8 due</i> . <b>Geologic Timescale test</b>

\*This field trip to Central Park depends upon the weather. You will be expected to meet the class at a predetermined location from which we will walk and examine various surface features of the landscape. More information will be provided in the week before the field trip.

**Academic Integrity:** Hunter College regards acts of academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, cheating on examinations, obtaining unfair advantage, and falsification of records and official documents) as serious offenses against the values of intellectual honesty. The college is committed to enforcing CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity and will pursue cases of academic dishonesty according to the Hunter College Academic Integrity Procedures.

See the following report by the Hunter College Senate for more details:

<http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/senate/assets/Documents/Hunter%20College%20Policy%20on%20Academic%20Integrity.pdf>

Since ChatGPT and other AI programs are not your own work, this is my policy concerning using AI for completing your work:

- Artificial intelligence-based technologies, such as ChatGPT, must **not** be used to generate responses for your assignments.
- Unauthorized use of artificial intelligence software or word mixing software to write your paper or disguise plagiarized work is considered unauthorized assistance in this course.
- Use of an AI text generator when an assignment does not explicitly call or allow for it without proper attribution or authorization is plagiarism.

**Diversity and Inclusion:** I am committed to fostering an intellectual environment that is enriched and enhanced by diversity in all dimensions, including race, ethnicity and national origins, gender and gender identity, sexuality, class and religion. All people have the right to be addressed and referred to in accordance with their personal identity. In this class, we will have the chance to indicate the name that we prefer to be called and, if we choose, to identify pronouns with which we would like to be addressed. I will do my best to address and refer to all students accordingly and support classmates in doing so as well.

### **Hunter College's Policy on Students with Disabilities:**

In compliance with the American Disability Act of 1990 (ADA) and with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Hunter College is committed to ensuring educational parity and accommodations for all students with documented disabilities and/or medical conditions. It is recommended that all students with documented disabilities (Emotional, Medical, Physical, and/or Learning) consult the Office of AccessABILITY, located in Room E1214B, to secure necessary academic accommodations. For further information and assistance, please call:

(212)772-4857 or (212)650-3230.

## **Hunter College Policy on Sexual Misconduct**

In compliance with the CUNY Policy on Sexual Misconduct, Hunter College affirms the prohibition of any sexual misconduct, which includes sexual violence, sexual harassment, and gender-based harassment retaliation against students, employees, or visitors, as well as certain intimate relationship. Students who have experienced any form of sexual violence on or off campus (including CUNY-sponsored trips and events) are entitled to the rights outlined in the Bill of Rights for Hunter College.

- a. **Sexual Violence:** Students are strongly encouraged to immediately report the incident by calling 911, contacting NYPD Special Victims Division Hotline (646-610-7272) or their local police precinct, on contacting the College's Public Safety Office (212-772-4444)
- b. **All Other Forms of Sexual Misconduct:** Students are also encouraged to contact the College's Title IX Campus Coordinator, Dean John Rose ([jrose@hunter.cuny.edu](mailto:jrose@hunter.cuny.edu) or 212-650-3262) or Colleen Barry ([colleen.barry@hunter.cuny.edu](mailto:colleen.barry@hunter.cuny.edu) or 212-772-4534) and seek complimentary services through the Counseling and Wellness Services Office, Hunter East 1123.

Policy on Sexual Misconduct can be found at <http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/diversityandcompliance/title-ix>