



**PHYSICAL GEOLOGY**  
**GEOLOGY 101**  
**Section DL1**  
Fall 2025

**Instructor:** Dr. Stacey Verardo

email: [sverardo@gmu.edu](mailto:sverardo@gmu.edu)

**Class Hours:** Tuesday and Thursday, 10:30am -11:45am ET

**Classroom:** THIS IS A 100% ONLINE SYNCHRONOUS LECTURE CLASS

**Office:** Exploratory Hall 3411

**Office Hour:** Thursdays, Noon -1:00pm BUT since this class is synchronous, I can meet with you immediately on zoom after most lectures. Be sure to email me if you need an appointment

**Communication Policy:** Only contact me by email using your gmu.edu account. I will not respond to emails sent from non-GMU official accounts.

It is your responsibility to make sure that your GMU email is set up properly and to check your email regularly. In the subject line of your email, you must have GEOL 101 as part of the identifier.

Any email from me will come either from CANVAS or from [sverardo@gmu.edu](mailto:sverardo@gmu.edu).

Please ensure you are familiar with accessing and navigating this platform.

<https://canvas.gmu.edu>

If you need IT help, call 703-993-8870 anytime or create a request ticket

(<https://its.gmu.edu/submit-a-ticket/>).

Resources and support are available at: <https://lms.gmu.edu/getting-started-students/> to help you get started. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to reach out to me or contact the [ITS Support Center](#) for assistance.

Lectures WILL be recorded. ALL CLASSES WILL BE HELD ON ZOOM.

**To Navigate to the Course Zoom Meetings:**

- After signing into Canvas, in the Global Navigation Menu to the far left, under Courses, find and open the GEOL 101 DL1 course.
- In the Course Navigation Menu, find and click on the Zoom link.
- In the Zoom interface within Canvas, find the "Upcoming Meeting" you want to attend and click "Join."

**To View a Previously Recorded Zoom Meeting:**

- In the Zoom interface with Canvas, click on the "Cloud Recordings" tab.
- Click on the title of the recording you want to view.
- Click on the thumbnail to start watching.

**Basic information:**

- The application "Poll Everywhere" will incorporate an embedded question within each lecture to help ensure you are on the right track towards understanding the material. Completing this is part of your participation grade.
- Lecture attendance is required, not optional. DO NOT rely on the recordings to understand the information.

**Technology Requirements:**

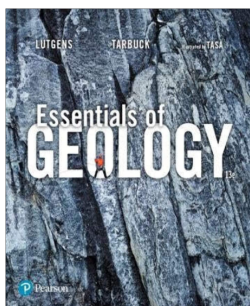
- You are required to have regular, reliable access to a computer with an updated operating system (recommended: Windows 10 or Mac OSX 10.13 or higher) and a stable broadband Internet connection (cable modem, DSL, satellite broadband, etc., with a consistent 1.5 Mbps [megabits per second] download speed or higher.
- You can check your speed settings using the speed test on this website.

**MATERIALS:**

**Mandatory Text for Lecture:** Essentials of Geology, Lutgens and Tarbuck, 13<sup>th</sup> ed Hard copy: <https://www.pearson.com/store/p/essentials-of-geology/P100000266994>

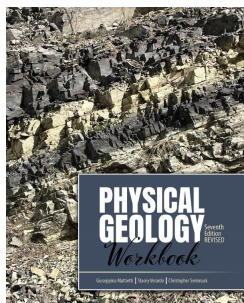
<https://www.amazon.com/Essentials-Geology-13th-Frederick-Lutgens/dp/0134446623>

Digital copy: [https://www.pearson.com/en-us/subject-catalog/p/essentials-of-geology/P200000007002/9780134857299?creative=&keyword=&matchtype=&network=x&device=c&gclid=EA1aIQobChMIjsyewqrOjAMVt2lHAR3wgC5wEAQYASABEgIYX\\_D\\_BwE](https://www.pearson.com/en-us/subject-catalog/p/essentials-of-geology/P200000007002/9780134857299?creative=&keyword=&matchtype=&network=x&device=c&gclid=EA1aIQobChMIjsyewqrOjAMVt2lHAR3wgC5wEAQYASABEgIYX_D_BwE)



**Mandatory Workbook for Laboratory:** *NOTE: Not all of you will be enrolled in the laboratory portion.* Physical Geology Workbook, Kysar-Mattietti and Verardo, Kendall Hunt, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition.

<https://he.kendallhunt.com/product/physical-geology-workbook-0>



The online lecture (GEOL 101) is 3 credits. The laboratory (GEOL 103), if enrolled, is 1-credit. The laboratory portion will be held on campus (EX L503).

### Course Objectives

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

- Comprehend, analyze and think in a scientific manner
- Understand and appreciate basic concepts of geology and the physical world in which we live using an Earth Systems Science approach.
- Experience the joy, wonder, and awe of a geologists studying the processes and products that shape our world.

**Each module will have four (4) goals to achieve:**

1. Peruse the module prior to the lecture.
2. Participate in the Live Zoom lecture.
3. Read the chapter in the text.
4. Complete the follow up activity (i.e. survey, quiz,).

### Course Schedule by Date:

Lecture Date	Module	Chapter/Topic	Assignment
August 26, Tuesday	1	1 Introduction	Quick survey
August 28, Thursday	2	3 Matter/Minerals	Quick quiz
September 2, Tuesday	3	3 Igneous rocks	Quick quiz
September 4, Thursday	4	4 Volcanoes	Quick quiz
September 9, Tuesday	5	7 Sedimentary rocks	Quick quiz
September 11, Thursday	6	6 Weathering	Quick quiz
September 16, Tuesday	7	8 Metamorphic rocks	Quick survey/Quick quiz

<b>September 18, Thursday</b>		<b>Review ONE</b>	
<b>September 23, Tuesday</b>		<b>EXAM ONE</b>	<b>Taken during class hours</b>
<b>September 25, Thursday</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>12 Mass wasting</b>	<b>Quick quiz</b>
<b>September 25, Tuesday</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>13 Running water</b>	<b>Quick quiz</b>
<b>October 2, Thursday</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>14 Groundwater</b>	<b>Quick quiz</b>
<b>October 7, Tuesday</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>15 Glaciers</b>	<b>Quick quiz</b>
<b>October 9, Thursday</b>		<b>Ice Age</b>	
<b>October 14, Tuesday</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>16 Deserts/Wind</b>	<b>Quick quiz</b>
<b>October 16, Thursday</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>17 Shorelines</b>	<b>Quick quiz</b>
<b>October 21, Tuesday</b>		<b>Review TWO</b>	
<b>October 23, Thursday</b>		<b>EXAM TWO</b>	<b>Taken during class hours</b>
<b>October 28, Tuesday</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>2 Plate tectonics</b>	<b>Quick quiz</b>
<b>October 30, Thursday</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>9 Earthquakes</b>	<b>Quick quiz</b>
<b>November 4, Tuesday</b>		<b>NO CLASS</b>	<b>ELECTION DAY</b>
<b>November 6, Thursday</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>10 Ocean floor</b>	<b>Quick quiz</b>
<b>November 11, Tuesday</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>11 Convergence</b>	<b>Quick quiz</b>
<b>November 13, Thursday</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>Resources</b>	<b>Quick quiz</b>
<b>November 18, Tuesday</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20 Climate change</b>	<b>Quick quiz</b>
<b>November 25, Tuesday</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>18 Geologic time</b>	<b>Quick quiz</b>
<b>November 27, Thursday</b>		<b>NO CLASS</b>	<b>THANKSGIVING</b>
<b>December 2, Tuesday</b>		<b>19 Earth History</b>	<b>Quick survey</b>
<b>December 4, Thursday</b>		<b>Review THREE</b>	
<b>December 16, Tuesday</b>		<b>EXAM THREE</b>	

## **COURSE INFORMATION**

Grading scale: A-89=100, B-78=88, C-67-77, D-55-66

- There will be 3 equally weighted exams. These will be given during the scheduled class time and will emphasize material presented in the lectures and course material. The exams will count for 70% of your total grade.
- Class participation will be worth 15% of your total grade. Make sure to complete each in class Poll Everywhere activity because this is the basis of your class participation grade.
- Quizzes will be worth 15% of the total grade.

Active listening and engagement with the lectures is key to succeeding in this class.

Make up exams will NOT be given.

Extra credit material will not be accepted.

Attendance at all scheduled lecture and laboratory sections is required to achieve the requisite level of knowledge in this course.

### **GMU POLICY GUIDELINES**

- You are responsible for all material in the textbook readings.
- Integrity: GMU has an Honor Code with guidelines regarding academic integrity; please see <http://oai.gmu.edu> for more information.  
Exams are closed book, and this course operates under the rules of the Honor Code. <https://oai.gmu.edu/mason-honor-code/> <https://academicstandards.gmu.edu/>
- Disability: If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and also contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at 703-993-2474 or <http://ds.gmu.edu>
- Privacy: Students must use their MasonLive email account to receive important University information, including messages related to this class. Please see <http://masonlive.gmu.edu> for more information.
- Electronics: Please be respectful of our time together and do not engage in activities that are unrelated to class. Cell phones may be left on but muted and used for emergencies only.
- Use of Artificial Intelligence Tools: The judicious use of AI tools is permitted for class work as an aid in learning but not as a replacement for original independent work.

The final grade will be determined by lecture exams and assignments.

### **How to be successful in this course (and all courses):**

- Read the syllabus completely and carefully.
- Read the associated material in the classroom directly after each lecture.
- Attend all classes and all review classes prior to each exam.
- For each hour of lecture, spend at least one hour studying on your own. Spread that time out during the week. The most effective way to study is to review your class notes on the same day as class. DO NOT CRAM FOR EXAMS!!
- All material discussed in class may be on the exams. A review sheet will always be accessible prior to any exam.
- Ask questions during class and take advantage of office hours (like free tutoring).
- Ask me any questions!!

### **University Links**

Calendar of religious holidays: <https://ulife.gmu.edu/religious-holidaycalendar/>

Student privacy and student rights under FERPA: (<https://registrar.gmu.edu/ferpa/>)

Additional services George Mason provides:

- Keep Learning, Learning Services ([learningservices.gmu.edu/keeplearning/](https://learningservices.gmu.edu/keeplearning/))
- University Libraries ([library.gmu.edu](https://library.gmu.edu))
- Writing Center ([writingcenter.gmu.edu](https://writingcenter.gmu.edu))
- Counseling and Psychological Services ([caps.gmu.edu](https://caps.gmu.edu))

GMU Common Course Policies available at:

<https://stearnscenter.gmu.edu/home/gmu-common-course-policies/>