
GEOL 107/L: GEOLOGY GOES HOLLYWOOD

Fall 2014



Dr. Matthew d'Alessio

Office hours

Location: Live Oak Hall 1228

Times: M 9:30-10:30a, or by appointment

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Special needs

We are committed to accommodating those with special physical or learning needs. Please let us know in the first week how we can ensure that this online experience works for you. We are making an effort to caption all video in a timely manner. VoiceThread has a “universal access” option. Some student needs may require that we develop alternate assignments, so your patience is appreciated.

Fine Print

It is the responsibility of each student in this course to know and follow all written guidance given by the instructor.

Unforeseen circumstances during the semester might require changes to the syllabus. In this event, a revised syllabus will be posted to Moodle at least one week in advance of the implementation of the change. The original syllabus will remain and the revised syllabus will be identified by the date of the revision as part of the file name. Dates of examinations will never be moved forward.

Underlying Principles

- Geology affects us every person every day here at CSUN – from the water we drink, the ground we stand on, and the energy we use to drive in our cars.
- Geology is a science, which means that it is driven by observations and evidence. That evidence is often incomplete, leading to multiple interpretations and can be interpreted different ways by scientists, citizens, and movie makers.
- Learning about geology, especially in the online environment, requires active engagement and discussion with other students.



Course Objectives

Geology Goes Hollywood will explore in depth issues of earth science that impact society, particularly ones that important to the residents of southern California. The course will examine how these issues are viewed the lens of movies and television and this can enhance or distort an understanding of the science that underlies these issues. This course is designed to allow you to: 1)

apply and strengthen critical thinking skills by analyzing information and ideas carefully and logically from multiple perspectives to develop reasoned conclusions, 2) apply the scientific method to be an effective problem solver, 3) connect concepts of earth science to their impact on local and global environments and human society, and 4) distinguish science from pseudoscience. In sum, this course will help you to make informed decisions about the myriad of problems facing your physical environment. You will understand how earth science applies to you as a resident of southern California and the world.

Deadlines

Staying on-time is always a challenge in an online course. During every week of the semester, we have three deadlines:

Monday at 10 pm

Wednesday at 10 pm

Friday at 10 pm

The course page on Moodle is divided up into sections for each week. Within each week there is a header for each deadline. You must complete all the items listed on Moodle beneath each deadline by 10 pm on the day shown. For some items, you can work up to several weeks ahead. But for others that involve discussion and team collaboration, you won't be able to get too far ahead and may need to devote time after one 11 pm deadline but before the next one.

The screenshot shows a Moodle course page for the week of January 20 - January 26. The main heading is "Mass Extinctions and the Fate of the Dinosaurs: How we learn about the past". Below the heading, there are two deadlines: "Due Wednesday, 11 pm" and "Due Friday, 11 pm". Under the Wednesday deadline, there are items: "Syllabus, Intro, and Technical Requirements (1)", "Movie: Watch Jurassic Park (1*)", "Movie: Ask Questions About Jurassic Park Here (1)", and "Quiz on Jurassic Park (1)". Under the Friday deadline, there are items: "Movie: Vote on questions about Jurassic Park Here (1)", "Movie: Watch How to Build a Dinosaur (1)", "Quiz on How to Build a Dinosaur (1)", "Intro to Lab: Build Your Own Dinosaur", "Instructions", "Bone Map (PDF Format)", "BoneMap (Download Format)", and "Lab: Build your own Dinosaur (1*) (Dinosaur Groups)". Three callout boxes provide additional information: 1) "Organized by deadline" points to the deadline headers. 2) "Some activities have multiple supporting documents and links that are indented below them." points to the indented items under the Friday deadline. 3) "*s at the end of each activity give an estimate of the amount of time it might take: (*) 30 minutes or less, (**) 30 min - 1 hour, (***) More than an hour" points to the asterisks on the activity names.

Time Investment

This is a 3 unit lecture + 1 unit lab combined course.

In a traditional face-to-face class, we would schedule to have you in class for 5.25 hours per week plus assign an additional 4+ hours of homework per week. You should expect your time investment in this online course to match that time commitment.

Late Assignments

Late assignments are **not accepted**. In this online course, you will need to be very diligent about meeting each and every deadline. All deadlines are listed on Moodle.

Grades

Because the lecture and lab components of the course are intertwined, you will be assigned one grade for the single online experience of GEOL 107 and GEOL 107/L. The grades on your transcript for the two classes will be identical. During the semester, we encourage you to think of the two courses as a single ‘class.’

We will calculate your grade using the categories in the table below. Numbers in parentheses indicate what portion of that category is based on your individual score versus team scores.

Movie quizzes (approximately weekly):	10%
Lab Activities	50%
End-of-Unit Quizzes (5 per semester)	20%
Participation in online discussions	20%

Plus-minus grading will be utilized for this course based on converting the course average to grades as follows:							
	B+	87.0-89.99999	C+	77.0-79.99999	D	60.0-69.99999	
A	93.0-100	B	83.0-85.99999	C	73.0-75.99999	F	< 60.0
A-	90.0-92.99999	B-	80.0-82.99999	C-	70.0-72.99999		
Rounding: Moodle tracks grades to 5 decimal places and will assign letter grades based on that those values. No further rounding will occur.							

Movie Quizzes. *Motivation:* To ensure that you see some of the key details in the movies. *Process:* There will be a 5-15 question multiple choice quiz on Moodle. Different students will receive different questions drawn from a random pool. Some of the questions are very specific, so you may open the quiz and view the questions before you begin watching the movie. Before the deadline, you can open and close the quiz questions as many times as you like without submitting. *Grading:* There are about 12 movie quizzes during the semester that are auto-scored by Moodle. We drop the one lowest movie quiz score. You can review the questions you answered correctly and the questions you answered wrong AFTER the quiz closing deadline.

Lab activities. *Motivation:* Lab assignments engage you in actual data analysis and interpretations along with your teammates. *Process:* There will be approximately one online lab assignment every week. Each lab is different, but they usually involve analyzing a data set individually, submitting your work either to Moodle or using Google Docs, and then either collaboratively discussing the results with your team or critically evaluating the work of your peers. *Grading:* Each lab assignment will include specific grading criteria. We drop the one lowest lab activity score.

Participation in online discussions. *Motivation:* Students succeed best when they feel a part of a community of learners. We strive to create that community even in this online course. *Process:* We utilize a variety of online tools to enable collaboration, including Moodle discussion forums, an amazing service called VoiceThread, and collaborative online documents through Google Drive. See the separate section below about online access requirements. Nearly every deadline has a requirement for participation in the online discussions. *Grading:* Each deadline, we specify the details of the minimum involvement. Meet those and you will get full credit. We will drop the three lowest participation scores (out of about 30-40 of them).

End-of-Unit Quizzes. *Motivation:* To ensure that you are retaining key ideas and able to perform the course objectives, we have a quiz at the end of each topic. *Process:* There are five total units in the course, so expect an End-of-Unit quiz due by 11 pm on Friday of every third week. Quizzes will be “open world” (the online, modern equivalent of open-book where you can use any internet resource you want to answer questions). They will also be timed to minimize cheating. *Grading:* Most questions will be auto-scored by Moodle, though essay questions will require individual grading. Those questions will show up as a zero score until the instructor assigns a grade to them, so please be patient!

No Extra credit. Extra credit is not a part of this course design and there will be no extra credit projects or assignments. Your task as students is to take full advantage of the formal requirements in the course to score as high as possible. There will be occasional bonus points awarded for outstanding work completed as part of the regular course requirements (such as questions selected as the top question by classmates, high quality work, etc...) and for attending outside functions such as field trips or movie screenings.

Final Exam

There is no final exam in this course. Course activities end on the last official day of instruction for the semester.

Academic dishonesty, copying, cheating

Be very mindful of your academic integrity! In the past, I have typically referred several cases to the VP of Student affairs each semester. Please help me and you avoid that process...

I expect high standards of academic integrity from future teachers so there is a **zero-tolerance rule** for academic dishonesty in this class. I will refer all cases of academic dishonesty (including copying, allowing others to copy your work, plagiarism, failing to cite your source, copying/pasting text from the internet even with modifications, misrepresentation of others' work as your own, etc.) to the VP of Student Affairs' office for arbitration and possible disciplinary action. The first offense will result in, *at minimum*, the reduction of your final grade by one partial letter grade (A- becomes B+), the second offense will result in an F for the class. It is not worth the risk to cheat or let someone copy your work in this class.

"Incomplete", Withdrawal from the Course, Change Of Grade, Dropping





Faculty in our department adhere to the "incomplete" and "withdrawal" policies and deadlines published in the Schedule of Classes. Grades of Incomplete are almost never given for this course. They can only be given if the student meets ALL the requirements set forth in University policy for Incompletes, including that the student:

- 1) Has a passing grade in the work completed
- 2) Has completed a substantial portion of the work in the course
- 3) Is able to complete the remaining work independently, with minimal assistance from the instructor.

Required online access

Throughout the semester, **please use your @my.csun.edu email address** whenever we ask you to enter your email. This will ensure that we can import things into the gradebook quicker so you can stay up-to-date on your score.

You will need access to the following online services:

 Moodle	Reading, tutorials, quizzes, videos	CSUN account
 Google DRIVE Google Drive	Work together with teams on documents & presentations	my.csun.edu account
 VOICETHREAD VoiceThread	Online discussions	Separate free account required
 iTunes, Amazon, OR NetFlix	Rent or purchase movies	Separate paid account required

Required Materials

There is **no textbook** required in this course, so we hope that the modest cost associated with renting some of these movies is reasonable. This chart shows which movies we'll watch, the date you should have finished watching them, and places you can find them. Our Moodle page has this same information with direct links to each movie. **Watching the films is required.** A quiz follows each movie and some questions are very specific. You'll want to take notes!

Movie	Topic	Due	Free Streaming Online	CSUN Library	LA Public Library	iTunes/ Amazon Online Rent	iTunes/ Amazon Online Buy
Jurassic Park	Dinosaurs	8/27/14		✓	✓	✓	✓
How to build a dinosaur		8/29/14	✓				
The Day the Mesozoic Died		9/5/14	✓				
Volcano	Volcanoes	9/15/14				✓	✓
Vesuvius & Pompeii		9/22/14	✓				
Supervolcano		9/29/14	✓				
A View to a Kill	Earthquakes	10/6/14			✓		✓
Ring of Fire		10/6/14	✓				
Northridge EQ		10/20/14	✓				
Earthquake		10/20/14			✓	✓	✓
Chinatown	Water	10/27/14		✓	✓	✓	✓
Cadillac Desert, Volume 1		10/29/14	✓	✓	✓		
Erin Brockovich		11/10/14		✓	✓	✓	✓
Promised Land	Fracking	11/14/14			✓		✓
Gasland		11/21/14		✓	✓	✓	✓
Truthland		11/21/14	✓				

