

Welcome to Geology 10



Geology 10: *Introductory Geology*

Winter Quarter, 2026

GEOL 10 (5.0 units)

GEOL 10.51Z, 53Z & 55Z

Independent Online Instruction (asynchronous)

Course website: on Canvas via your De Anza MyPortal
W 26 GEOL D10 Introductory Geology

Hi and welcome to Introductory Geology. I am looking forward to joining you on a journey of discovery of your home planet. Please think of my role more as a guide on an alien world rather than as a “teacher.” Also feel free to contact me if there is anything I can do to help you achieve success in the class.

Dr. D

Contact Information

Christopher DiLeonardo, Ph.D.

Office S14a (*Behind Geology Teaching Lab*)

Contact: via Canvas Messenger not email.

Office Hours Via Zoom Tu, Th 9:30 to 11:30 am
Use Canvas Messaging to set up appointment.

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Course Catalog Information

Analysis of the composition, structure, and description of the Earth's external and internal features and the geologic processes responsible for their origin and evolution. Examination of the concepts and principles upon which geologic knowledge is based. One Saturday field trip is required.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) and Course Objectives

A clear understanding of what you should be learning in any class is essential to your success. Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) and Course Objectives gives you a general picture of what is covered in the course.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) for GEOL 10: Introductory Geology

Student Learning Outcomes are overarching, clear, and assessable statements that identify and define what a student is able to do at the successful completion of a specific course. These outcomes may involve a combination of knowledge, skills/abilities, and/or attitudes that display behavioral evidence that learning has occurred at a specific level of competency.

1. Apply the principles of scientific methodology to test hypotheses on how the Earth works as an integrated system.
2. Use data and observations to track and predict changes in the Earth system resulting from dynamic Earth Processes.
3. Use observations from the crust and lithosphere of the Earth to determine geologic history at hand sample, outcrop, local, and regional scales.
4. Apply scientific methodology and geologic principles to analyze the impact of the Earth system on humanity, from specific natural hazards and the availability, use, and distribution of Earth resources.

Every effort is made so that each student will feel comfortable in a supportive collaborative learning environment. I invite you all to work with me towards achieving that goal. I also invite you to reach out to each other in the class and work with all of your colleagues giving each classmate and their thoughts the respect deserved.

Course Objectives for GEOL 10: Introductory Geology

The course objectives for Introductory Geology expand out of the overarching Student Learning Outcomes. In general they are intended to foster an understanding of the scientific approach to problem solving and a specific knowledge of the fundamental concepts of geology.

- A. Summarize and describe a globally and temporally inclusive overview of the Earth.
- B. Distinguish between hypotheses, theories, and laws, and demonstrate the assessment of hypotheses through testing.
- C. Analyze the physical properties of minerals and their significance in rock genesis, starting with basic chemical principles.
- D. Distinguish between the major families of rocks and analyze how they relate to each other as parts of the rock cycle; interpret conditions of formation from physical characteristics of rocks.
- E. Evaluate relative age-relationships between rock units in order to develop a geologic time scale, and calibrate this time scale by calculating rock ages via isotopic dating.
- F. Construct and interpret geologic maps and cross-sections in order to delineate the three-dimensional structure of the earth's crust; visualize structures such as faults and folds.
- G. Assemble and synthesize geophysical information in order to assess earthquake hazards and to construct plausible models of the Earth's deep interior.
- H. Synthesize geological, seismological, and paleomagnetic data in order to demonstrate an understanding of global plate tectonics, and predict phenomena such as the locations of earthquakes and volcanoes.
- I. Analyze imagery and topographic data in order to elucidate the evolution of landforms produced by the interaction of rock, soil, water, wind, and ice.
- J. Evaluate and assess environmental hazards in a geologic context; assess locations of geologic resources such as mineral deposits and hydrocarbons from geologic data, and appraise the impacts of geologic resource issues on the environment and human populations.

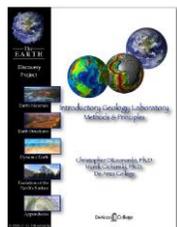
Required Materials



Note: It is your responsibility to be prepared for each class session. Having the required materials, doing readings, having the proper laboratory exercise with you at the right time is important to your success.

Textbook: *An Introduction to Geology*, Johnson, C., Matthew, A.D., Inkenbrandt, P., Mosher, C. 2017 Salt Lake Community College.

Note: Digital Online Textbook, is a Creative Commons Work, free for noncommercial use. Readings will be available through the Canvas course site.



Lab/Activities: Come from the free digital lab manual: *Introductory Geology Laboratory: Methods and Principles*, v. 1.4 virtual lab addition, DiLeonardo, C.G. The Earth Discovery Project 2020.

Note: Lab book/exercises will be available through Canvas site online.

Other: Color pencils and Millimeter scale/ruler

Weekly Class Modules

A module is specific and discrete learning segment that leads to the understanding of a given topic or set of topics. Modules will be assigned by topic on Canvas. Modules include all assignments that will be completed for a particular topical set. A module is a specific and discrete learning segment that leads to the understanding of a given topic. Modules are to be completed within the dates specified on the syllabus (schedule is below). More details on these assignments, including which ones will be turned in, as well as how they will be turned in are explained below and on the assignments themselves.

A Note on Online Learning

Online courses are different from traditional lecture courses. They offer much more flexibility in completing assignments and learning material from sources other than traditional lectures. However, you will need to have good self-discipline in completing these tasks, especially in a timely manner. This is a five-unit lecture-laboratory course. This equates to four hours of lecture and 3 hours of laboratory work per week during a regular quarter. This does not include the extra personal study time needed in addition to those mandatory class hours that the State of California and De Anza College requires. If you are planning on mastering the material covered this quarter, you will need to make sure you 1.) Are engaged in the course at least 7-hours a week (not including study time); 2.) Login at least two different days during the week (to stay current in the course); 3.) Prepare the exams using your notes from online learning tutorials, your completed laboratory activities, and your textbook readings.

Lectures Online

Lectures for the class will be pre-recorded. This gives every student the flexibility to view them at their own convenience. This format also allows you to go over the lectures, or look back at them as needed. Any lectures will be delivered via a link to a YouTube presentation. Other materials will be offered via a link to an online learning resource. Missing the online lectures, much as missing lectures in a traditional class, will severely impact your learning of the subject and impact your work on exams. As much of the exam material comes out of lectures along with readings and laboratory work, you are encouraged to discipline yourself to go through them in each module and take notes. Notes do not need to be turned into me, but will become invaluable resources along with your textbook in completing the exams.

Laboratory Activities

In each module will be an inquiry-based laboratory activity that leverages the learning on that topic. Laboratory activities will be in the form of .pdf files from the online laboratory workbook. Each lab session will have links to online resources for each lab along with a link to download the specific laboratory worksheet. You should printout each lab worksheet, complete the work, and then either scan the lab or take pictures of each page. You will upload your completed lab work via Canvas. It is OK to do the work directly on the downloaded .pdf file if you do not have access to a printer. But, if you do this it is your responsibility to make sure that charts, profiles, and map work you do for lab has the same quality and resolution as if working with pencil and paper.

Laboratory work is critical to your learning and is also necessary to meet laboratory class requirements for transfer and degree programs. You cannot pass the class without completing at least 70% of the laboratory exercises and the Virtual Field Trip Requirement.

Readings from Web Textbook

This class is designed around an integrated approach to learning. It is very important that you do the reading in the online textbook assigned each week. The book will also be an invaluable resource for preparing the midterm and final exam for the course. The readings are important part, especially in an

online course where your work is more independent than a face-to-face classroom situation. Each week you will find a link to online readings in your weekly Class Page on the *Canvas* class site. You should engage in these readings prior to watching the *Video Lectures* each week.

Readings from Special Papers

To augment the textbook there are several *Special Papers* I have written on topics that need more specific coverage than given in the textbook. You need to read these papers as you would the textbook. These will be found on either class web page and occasionally as part of the pre-lab work as needed. Additionally, on one topic there will be a *Digital Poster* that synthesizes a number of important concepts. That digital poster should be studied as part of your required reading.

Academic Policies

Academic Dishonesty: Students are advised to consult their [College Catalog](#) or [Student Handbook](#) regarding issues of discipline, cheating, etc. **Academic dishonesty “cheating,” will not be tolerated** and students will receive a score of 0 on any assignment they have been found to have cheated.

Late Work: Late labs will be accepted under an automatic emergency extension of one week. Missed quizzes and exams will result in a score of 0. Quizzes and the midterm exam can be made up by arrangement within one week. The final exam must be made up within two days of the scheduled final exam day. The makeup for a quiz or exam may be replaced by the instructor with an appropriate alternate to ensure the integrity of the assessment.

Academic Progress

You are encouraged to monitor and discuss with me your academic progress in this course. The **grading system is clearly outlined below and there will be no “special” projects available to make up for poor** academic performance. If you are struggling with specific learning issues, I would recommend reaching out to the [Disabled Student Services](#) on Campus (link on class home page).

Note: Failure to properly withdraw from the course will result in a letter grade of “F” or “FW” for the course, depending on the timing of your disengagement from the class.

Virtual Field Trip

Students enrolled in *Introductory Geology* will participate in a virtual field trip as part of the course. This activity is a required part of the curriculum for the class. Information will be made available later in the quarter.

Contacting Me

Please contact me using [Canvas Messenger](#) not regular email. I will reply within 24 hours Monday through Thursday and on Monday for messages sent Friday through the Weekend.

A Note About Virtual Laboratories & Field Trips

Every effort in this course is made to construct virtual learning experiences that provide the same student learning outcomes as the course offered in a “face-to-face” format. Virtual field trips and laboratories are created with this in mind. Laboratories exercises will be offered weekly that dovetail with the learning presented in *lectures, and web-textbook* readings. Laboratory activities will follow the same sequence generally offered in face-to-face laboratories. Laboratory exercises can be found on the *Canvas* class site for each week. Follow the instructions on the site. In most cases you need to download and printout a laboratory activity to follow instructions and record your answers.

Grading

1,000 pts for the class:

Area A: Methods & Principles*

150 pts. In-class laboratory and field projects (collaborative experiences)
50 pts lab participation first ½ of course *50 pts lab participation 2nd ½ of course*
50 pts field workshop participation

Area B: Concepts

150 pts. Concept quizzes
25 pts Earth Science IQ *25 pts Igneous Rocks*
25 pts Seismology *25 pts Depositional Environments*
25 pts Plate Tectonics *25 pts Geologic Time*

Area C: Skill Proficiency Areas

100 pts. Proficiency Quizzes
25 pts Topographic Map Quiz (individual assessment) *(individual assessment)*
25 pts Mineral ID Quiz (individual assessment) *25 pts Geologic Map & Earth Structures Quiz (individual assessment)*
25 pts Rock Classification: collaborative

Area D: Application & Synthesis

300 pts. Midterm Exam
150 pts Midterm Exam Part A collaborative take-home
150 pts Midterm Exam Part B online exam

300 pts. Final Exam*
150 pts Final Exam Part A collaborative take-home
150 pts Final Exam Part B online exam

Final Grade

Plus	Letter Grade	Minus	Rubric
A+ > 999 pts	A = 895 to 999	A- = 875 to 894	<i>Student displays both a level of knowledge and understanding of Geology & the Earth system superior to the general public.</i>
B+ = 855 to 874	B = 771 to 854	B- = 750 to 770	<i>Student displays a level of knowledge of Geology & the Earth system significantly above that of the general public; and a basic understanding of the principles of Geology & the Earth system.</i>
C+ = 730 to 749	C = 625 to 730		<i>Student demonstrates a basic knowledge and understanding of Geology</i>

			<i>&the Earth system above that of the general public.</i>
D+ = 605 to 624	D = 520 to 604	D- = 500 to 519	<i>Student does not demonstrate knowledge and understanding of Geology & the Earth system beyond that of the general public.</i>
F < 500			

**Each student is required to complete at least 70% of the laboratory work, the virtual field trip, and participate in the final examination to receive a passing grade for the course. A student will receive a letter grade of "F" regardless of any other point totals if they fail to meet these minimum required standards.*

Please Note: Final grades are "non-negotiable" and are based entirely on your performance in class work, quizzes, collaborative experiences, and exams. Once posted, grades cannot be changed unless there is a recording error. This is a matter of State Law. Please don't ask!

Class Schedule Winter Quarter 2026

Class Schedule is tentative and subject to change by your professor as deemed necessary. All class activities and material will be available through the Class Canvas Site. Note: Readings and Laboratory Activities can be accessed through the Canvas Class Website. This term is eleven weeks long, followed by a final exam. The schedule may be changed as needed by the instructor during the term. All changes to the schedule will be updated on the Class Site in Canvas.

WEEK

Date / Module

Topic:

Learning Tutorial/Activity/ Assignment

Reading

An Introduction To Geology

PART I: THE DYNAMIC PLANET

01

The Study of a Restless Planet

01/05-01/11

Lecture 1-0: Science and the Discovery of the Restless Earth

Chap. 1.0

Lab Activity 01

Topographic Maps
(printout lab worksheet from online lab manual)**

Due This Week

Pre-Class Earth Science IQ Quiz Sunday 01/11

02

The Dynamic Earth

01/12-01/18

Lecture 2-1: Earthquakes

Chap. 9.5 – 9.9

Lecture 2-2: The Tectonic Framework of Planet Earth

Chap.2.0

Lab Activity 02 *Seismology and the Instrumental Study of Earthquakes.*
(printout lab worksheet from online lab manual)

Important Note: Last day to drop without a W is Sunday 01/18

03 *The Heat Within*

01/19-25 Lecture 3-1: The Anatomy of a Scientific Revolution

Lecture 3-2: Volcanism Chap. 4.5

Lab Activity 03 *Plate Tectonics & Plate Motions*
(printout lab worksheet from online lab manual)

Due This Week Concept Quiz: Seismology Sunday 01/25

*Lectures" Will be pre-recorded and available on the Weekly class page. Readings and Lectures should be done early in the week and prior in most cases to the lab work for that week. Lab work is due on the Sunday of the week that the class Module is presented. Quizzes are also due on Sunday evenings. Exams are scheduled and will be due on the day announced in the class pages in Canvas.

WEEK Date / Module	Topic: Learning Tutorial/Activity/ Assignment	Reading <i>An Introduction To Geology</i>
<i>04</i>	<i>The Changing Face of the Earth</i>	
01/26-02/01	<u>Lecture 4-0: Running Water: Stream Erosion and the Evolution of Landscapes</u>	Chap. 11
	<u>Video Presentation: Waves, Beaches and Coastlines</u> (Earth Revealed Series)	Chap. 12
Lab Activity 04	<i>Evolution of an Integrated Stream System</i> (printout lab worksheet from online lab manual)	
Due This Week	Proficiency Quiz: Topographic Maps Sunday 02/01 Concept Quiz: Plate Tectonics Sunday 02/01	
<i>05</i>	<i>Landscapes of Change</i>	
02/02-02/08	<u>Lecture 5-1: Landscapes of Climatic Extreme: Deserts & Glacial Environments</u>	Chap. 13 & 14
	<u>Lecture 5-2: Climate Change</u>	
Lab Activity 05	<i>Modification of Stream Eroded Landscapes by Glaciation</i> (printout lab worksheet from online lab manual)	
Midterm Exam	Download Midterm Packet and Part A of Exam Available on Monday 02/02 Part A Due This Week: Sunday 02/08 closes at 11:55 PM Pacific Time Midterm Part B opens Friday 02/06 due Monday 02/09	

PART II: WRITTEN IN STONE

<i>06</i>	<i>The Universe Beneath Each Footstep</i>	
02/09-02/16	<u>Lecture 6-0: Minerals: The Building Blocks of Rocks</u>	Chap. 3
Lab Session 06	<i>Mineral Properties and Identification</i> (printout lab worksheet from online lab manual)	

Due This Week

Midterm Exam Answers Part A submit through online

Part B take online by Monday 02/09 closes 11:55 PM Pacific Time***

******Note: Midterm Exam Part B is due on Monday 02/09 at 11:55 pm Pacific Time NOT Sunday.***

WEEK

Date / Module

Topic:

Learning Tutorial/Activity/ Assignment

Reading*An Introduction
To Geology**07**The Record of the Rocks*

02/16-02/22

Lecture 7-1: Igneous Rocks

Chap. 4.1-4.4

Chap. 6

Lecture 7-2: Metamorphic Rocks

SP: Igneous Rocks

Lab Activity 07*Rock Textures and Genesis*

(printout lab worksheet from online lab manual)

Due This Week

Proficiency Quiz: Mineral ID Sunday 02/22

*08**Pages of Stone*

02/23-03/01

Lecture 8-1: Sediments & Sedimentary Rocks

Chap. 5

SP: Sedimentary

Lecture 8-2: Sedimentary Rocks:*Keys to Past Environments*

Environments

Lab Activity 08*Rock Genesis & Classification*

(printout lab worksheet from online lab manual)

Due This Week

Concept Quiz: Igneous Rocks Sunday 03/01

Important Note:*Last day to Withdraw from class is Friday 02/27**09**Written in Stone*

03/02-03/08

Lecture 9-0: Geologic Time & Interpreting
Earth History

Chap. 7

DP: Types of
Contacts**Lab Activity 09***Earth Structures Part I*

(printout lab worksheet from online lab manual)

Due This Week

Concept Quiz: Sedimentary Environments Sunday 03/08

Proficiency Quiz: Rock Classification Sunday 03/08

*10**Riddle of the Rocks*

03/09-03/15

Lecture 10-0: Earth Structures & Deformation
of the Earth's Crust

Chap. 9.1 – 9.5

Lab Activity 10*Earth Structures Part II*

(printout lab worksheet from online lab manual)

Due This Week

Concept Quiz: Geologic Time Sunday 03/15
Proficiency Quiz: Earth Structures Sunday 03/15

Virtual Field Trip
WEEK
Date / Module

Virtual Field Trip opens Monday 03/09
Topic:
Learning Tutorial/Activity/ Assignment

Reading
*An Introduction
To Geology*

11

Explorations

03/16-03/22

Lecture: *Preparation for Final Exam*

Lab Activity 11

Lab: *Preparation for Final Exam*

**Virtual Field
Trip**

Virtual Field Trip due: Sunday 03/22

Final Exam

Download Final Exam Packet, Mission Briefing and Part A of Exam
Available on Monday 03/16
Final Exam Part A opens Thursday 03/19 due Sunday 03/22
Final Exam Part B opens Saturday 03/21 closes Monday 03/23

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Final Exam

FINAL EXAM SCHEDULE: GEOL 10

03/23

GEOL 10 Secs. 51Z & 52Z
Monday (03/23) Final Exam Part B: Closes at 11:55 PM Pacific
Time.

*Enjoy your Spring Break!
But maybe not too much, Dr. D.*

Student Learning Outcome(s):

- Apply the principles of scientific methodology to evaluate hypotheses on how the earth works as an integrated system.
- Use data and observations to track and predict changes in the Earth system resulting from dynamic Earth Processes.
- Use observations from the crust and lithosphere of the Earth to determine geologic history at hand-sample, outcrop, local, and regional scales.
- Apply scientific methodology and geologic principles to analyze the impact of the Earth system on humanity, from specific natural hazards and the availability, use, and distribution of Earth resources.

Office Hours:

Zoom	T,TH	9:30 AM - 11:30 AM
S14A on the De Anza Campus	TH	9:30 AM - 10:30 AM