

Earth Through Time

Earth Sciences 106

Section: D100

Term: 2008 Spring

Instructor: Dirk Kirste

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Discussion Topics: General: REQUIREMENT DESIGNATION: B-Sci

EASC 106 is an introduction to the 4.6 billion year history of Earth, from its initial formation to the present day. This fascinating story traces the geological and biological events that make up our planet's past. Topics include the formation of the earth, plate tectonics and the dynamic crust, mountain building, glaciation, the origin and evolution of life, major extinctions, and the path to our modern world. This course is intended for non-majors.

Course Topics:

1. Formation of the Earth
2. Time and geology
3. The Earth's dynamic crust and plate tectonic theory
4. Evolution and the nature of the fossil record
5. Precambrian Earth
6. Paleozoic Earth; Devonian extinction, Permian extinction
7. Mesozoic Earth; Cretaceous extinction
8. Cenozoic Earth, rise of man

Course Organization:

3 one-hour lectures per week (M, W, F).

Grading: 1. Written Assignments 40%

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2. Mid-Term Theory Exam 20%

3. Final Theory Test: 40%

Required Texts: Wicander, R. and Monroe, J.S., 2004, Historical Geology, 4th Edition, Brooks/Cole, Toronto, 427p.

Recommended Texts: None.

Materials/Supplies: None.

Prerequisite/Corequisite: None.

Notes: None.

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