

# ESC 115: Physical Geology

Dale Easley  
USC104, 589-3639  
deasley@dbq.edu

## Syllabus

Physical Geology is the study of Earth's resources and processes, both on a small and large scale. Our text is *The Story of the Earth* by Dale Easley (yes, me). It is available for free on my web site, both in landscape and portrait format. You can say "Thank you" any time you wish for saving you a few dollars.

There will be four tests (deates on th web site), including the final. **No makeups exams are allowed.** Instead, the lowest of your four test scores will be dropped. The material for the tests is clearly labelled in the book:

Test 1:	Where am I? Local geology. Glaciation, geologic time, and mineralogy.
Test 2:	Where would I like to be? Plate tectonics; the rock cycle.
Test 3:	What are the hazards if I move? Earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and floods.
Test 4:	What are the resources available? Water, fossil fuels, renewable energy, and soils.
Lab midterm:	Week 7, regular lab time, on labs for weeks 1-6.
Lab final:	Week 14, regular lab time. on labs for weeks 8-13.

The laboratory component of the course will count 25% of your grade, equal in weight to each of the three top test grades. The laboratory will have regular quizzes and announced tests. After calculating your average with the above weightings, letter grades will be assigned as follows:

A	94-100	B-	80-82	D+	67-69
A-	90-93	C+	77-79	D	63-66
B+	87-89	C	73-76	D-	60-62
B	83-86	C-	70-72	F	below 60

In order to do well in this course, you will need to do the following things:

- Print materials from the Web. I post information and study guides onto my web site plus essays that I will refer to in class. I will also put the lab manual online. To access them using a Web browser, google Dale Easley or go to the following site:  
<http://daleeasley.com/>
- Submit weekly assignments as instructed. Each lab has an out-of-class component that is due the following week.
- *Attend class.* Generally, lectures are as important as readings from the text. The lectures will highlight important points from the text and incorporate additional material. I show slides regularly and some of them appear as part of the test.
- *Come see me or email me if you need help.* I will be available regularly in my office, 104 in Goldthorpe Hall of the University Science Center. My office hours are posted on my calendar on my website as well as other free time. If my office hours do not fit your schedule, email me for an appointment.

# Course Administrative Information

## Learning Outcomes

At the end of this semester you should be able to do the following:

- Explain the workings of the major interlocking systems (hydrologic, rock, etc.) that govern the Earth.
- Identify major rocks and minerals.
- Use maps to determine geomorphology, gradients, and resource locations.
- Identify major landforms of the world and the geologic processes that formed them.
- Determine the relationship between plate tectonics and the occurrence of geologic hazards and resources.
- Engage in serious and quality discussions about character and ethics, especially as pertains to stewardship of the environment.

## Attendance

So that you may most efficiently achieve the learning goals of the course, your presence at all class sessions is necessary. Knowing that we all sometimes have good reasons for falling short of this expectation, I have instituted the following attendance policy: absences from class may lower your final grade after you have accumulated three (3) unexcused absences. Please speak with me if you have any questions about what constitutes an unexcused absence.

## Academic Success Center

The Academic Success Center for the University of Dubuque is located on the second floor of the Myers Library. The phone to the Center is 589-3262. This Center can assist you in developing basic academic skills and can provide tutoring referrals. Please contact your instructor to discuss Academic Success Center services that might assist you in achieving course outcomes.

## Academic Dishonesty Policy

The University of Dubuque expects students to be honest in academic matters. We expect each person on campus to be forthright and direct, and to value integrity in all his/her dealings. Activities and attitudes should be consistent with high academic standards and Christian commitment and should be consistent with the Mission and Values of the University. (University of Dubuque Student Handbook, 2006). Please see the "Values Violations" section of the UD Student Handbook for appropriate definitions, procedures and possible sanctions related to Academic Dishonesty

(<http://www.dbq.edu/studentlife/pdf/200607UDStudentHandbook.pdf>)

## Americans with Disability Act (ADA) Statement

Reasonable accommodations are available for students who have a documented disability. Please notify me during the first week of class of any accommodations needed for the course. Late notification may cause the requested accommodations to be unavailable. Confidentiality of all requests will be maintained. All requested accommodations must be approved through the Academic Success Center, 2nd floor Myers Library (589-3262).

## Subject to Change Clause

This syllabus, course calendar and other attending documents are subject to change during the semester.