

MASTER SYLLABUS : GL 106

1. Course Information

College: College of Science and Mathematics
Department: Geological Sciences
Course Title: The Evolving Earth
Course Designation and Number: GL106
GE Area(s): Area V - Natural Sciences

Writing Intensive: Yes No

For WI Courses: All sections Selected Sections are WI.

Method(s) of Instruction: Lecture
 Discussion
 Web-enhanced
 Web-only
 Other (Explain below.)

Includes Lab: Yes No
Three hours lecture, two hours lab

Prerequisites: None

2. Objectives

GE Program Objectives:

Sharpen critical thinking, problem solving and communication skills.
Learn about the aesthetic, ethical, moral, social, and cultural dimensions of human experience needed for participation in the human community.
Increase knowledge and understanding of the past, of the world in which we live, and of how both past and present have an impact on the future.

GE Area Five Objectives:

Area Five courses emphasize scientific inquiry as a way to discover the natural world, and they explore fundamental issues of science and technology in human society.

Course Objectives and GE Learning Outcomes:

Students learn how Earth has changed through time and that the time scale for these changes is vastly different than the one of their everyday lives. The geologic evidence and the historical perspective for our current world are examined. The theories of plate tectonics and evolution are unifying themes for understanding Earth and our place on it.

Understand the experimental basis of scientific inquiry
Understand the importance of model building for understanding the natural world
Understand the theoretical, practical, creative and cultural dimensions of scientific inquiry
Discuss some of the fundamental theories underlying modern science
Understand the dynamic interaction between society and the scientific enterprise
Recognize appropriate ethical uses of knowledge in the natural sciences

For WI Courses: WAC Objectives

To improve students' writing proficiency – their ability to develop ideas and transmit information for an appropriate audience in an organized, coherent fashion while writing with appropriate style and correct grammar, usage, punctuation and spelling.

To encourage students to use writing as a learning tool to explore and structure ideas, to articulate thoughts and questions, and to discover what they know and do not know, thereby empowering students to use writing as a tool of discovery, self-discipline, and thought.

To demonstrate for students the ways in which writing is integral to all disciplines, essential to the learning and conveying of knowledge in all fields.

The Writing Intensive component of this course will encourage students to use writing as a learning tool to explore and structure ideas, to articulate thoughts, and to discover what they know and do not know. This is accomplished by writing a series of short essays on topics relevant to the course and to the individual interests of the student.

3. Suggested Course Materials

Text: The Evolving Earth by Gregor, Pearson Publ.

Lab Manual: The Evolving Earth Laboratory by Wright State University Geological Sciences,
Hayden McNeil Publ.

Calculator

4. Suggested Methods of Evaluation

Two midterm exams, a final exam, and weekly laboratory reports.

5. Grading Policy

All GE courses are graded A-F.

WI component is graded Pass/Unsatisfactory.(Include only for WI courses)

6. Suggested Weekly Course Outline Including Typical Assignments

Week 1	Interpreting sedimentary rocks Sedimentary strata in time and place
Week 2	Fossils, time and evolution Radioactivity; Time with numbers
Week 3	The solar system Review
Week 4	Test The Archean and Proterozoic Eons
Week 5	Global tectonic The Paleozoic Era
Week 6	Paleozoic life Review
Week 7	Test The Mesozoic Era
Week 8	Mesozoic life The Cenozoic Era
Week 9	Cenozoic life Human evolution
Week 10	Review

7. Other

Syllabus distributed to students should employ the format approved by UCAP and must include:

- Instructor name, office hours, and contact information
- Office of Disability Services information
- Information on how grades will be determined
- Attendance policy