MASTER SYLLABUS: GL 105

1. Course Information
   College: College of Science and Mathematics
   Department: Geological Sciences
   Course Title: The Planet Earth
   Course Designation and Number: GL105
   GE Area(s): Area V – Natural Sciences

   Writing Intensive: _X_ Yes __No

   For WI Courses: ___All sections _X_Selected Sections are WI.

   Method(s) of Instruction: _X_Lecture
   ___Discussion
   ___Web-enhanced
   ___Web-only
   ___Other

   Includes Lab: _X_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 will learn the nature of Earth materials and the processes that are currently active and that have changed it through time. The geologic evidence and the perspective for understanding our physical environment are stressed. The theory of plate tectonics is a unifying theme 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: *Introduction to Physical Geology* by Thompson and Turk, Saunders 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  Introduction
   Minerals
   Week 2  Igneous rocks
   Volcanoes
   Week 3  Weathering and soils
   Sedimentary rocks
   Week 4  Metamorphic rocks
   Review
   Week 5  Test
   Plate tectonics
   Week 6  Earthquakes and Earth’s structure
   Ocean basins
   Week 7  Geologic structures
   Mountain ranges
   Mass wasting
   Review
   Week 8  Test
   Streams and lakes
   Ground water
   Week 9  Deserts
   Glaciers and ice ages
   Week 10 Coastlines
   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