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: _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 (Explain below.)

   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 learn how Earth has changed through time and that the time scale for these changes
   is vastly different that 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
   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