

M-W 8:30 – 9:45 AM, LFG (Lily Fong Geoscience Building), Room 102

Instructor: Dr. Ganqing Jiang
Office: LFG 206
Contact info: Email: jiangg@unlv.nevada.edu
 Phone: 702-895-2708
Laboratories: M 2:30 – 5:20 pm (L01); T 2:30 – 5:20 pm (L02)
Office Hours: Monday 10:00 – 11:30 am and by appointment
Required Textbook: Harold L. Levin, 2006, *The Earth Through Time*, 8th Edition, John Wiley and Sons, INC., 616 pp. ISBN: 978-0471-69743-5
T. A. : Mike Howell
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Objectives:

The objectives of this class are to (1) gain the basic knowledge about the history of the earth and life on the earth, (2) understand the basics about the earth system changes and their influences on life, (3) develop skills on formulating hypotheses and testing methods using examples of major biological innovation events, and (4) develop and strengthen abilities to interpret geological history from your own observations, and skills for using geological maps.

Grading:

Quizzes and short assignments.....15% -----(a)
 Midterm Exam.....25% -----(b)
 Final Exam.....30% -----(c)
 Lab/Field work.....30% -----(d)

Final exam is cumulative; No make-ups for exams except stated by the university rules (see below)

Your final score will be calculated as follows: Final score = (a) * 15% + (b) * 25% + (c) * 30% + (d) * 30%

Your final grade will be assigned on the following schedule: A: 90-100; B: 80-89; C: 70-79; D: 60-69; F: < 60. A plus/minus system may be employed at the instructor’s discretion.

Lecture Schedule: The following schedule is tentative; adjustments to the schedule of topics and reading assignments may be made in accordance with the rate of progress in the classroom. Updated syllabus and lecture notes will be provided in the class website.

Date	Topic	Reading
(M) Jan. 15	No class, Martin Luther King Holiday	
(W) Jan. 17	Introduction: WHYs and HOWs	Chapter 1
(M) Jan. 22	How did our earlier generations think about the Earth: Historical View	Chapter 2
(W) Jan. 24	How do we know the age of the Earth: Relative and Absolute Ages	Chapter 3
(M) Jan. 29	Materials for studying the Earth history: Rocks and Minerals	Chapter 4
(W) Jan. 31	Sedimentary Record: What information can we get?	Chapter 5
(M) Feb. 5	Sedimentary Record: Interpreting the Earth History	Chapter 5
(W) Feb. 7	Fossils in Sedimentary Record: A Major Tool for Telling Time	Chapter 6
(M) Feb. 12	Fossils in Sedimentary Record: Information on Earth System Changes	Chapter 6

(W)	Feb. 14	Plate tectonics and rock cycles: Complexities of the Rock Record	Chapter 7
(M)	Feb. 19	<i>Presidents Day Holiday, No class</i>	
(W)	Feb. 21	Plate tectonics and rock cycles: Revealing the Hidden History	Chapter 7
<i>Feb. 23 (late afternoon)-24-25 (Fri-Sat-Sun): Weekend Field Trip in Death Valley</i>			
(M)	Feb. 26	<i>No class, working on the field project</i>	
(W)	Feb. 28	Life through Time: The Early Days	Chapter 8
(M)	Mar. 5	Midterm Review	
(W) Mar. 7 Midterm Exam (8:30 am)			
<i>Mar. 12 – Mar. 18, Spring Breaks, No class</i>			
(M)	Mar. 19	Life through Time: the rise of oxygen and evolution of life	Chapter 8 +
(W)	Mar. 21	Life through Time: The Proterozoic Eon	Chapter 9
(M)	Mar. 26	Biological Innovation: The “Snowball” Earth	Chapter 9 +
(W)	Mar. 28	Life through Time: The Paleozoic Biosphere	Chapter 12
(M)	April 2	The Paleozoic Tectonic History of North America	Chapter 10-11
(W)	April 4	Mass extinction: What Happened at the End of the Permian?	Chapter 12
(M)	April 9	Life through Time: What’s new in the Mesozoic?	Chapter 13
(W)	April 11	Mass extinction: What happened to the Dinosaurs?	Chapter 14
<i>April 14 (Sat): North Muddy Mountains Field Trip for Projects (Maps and Cross Sections)</i>			
(M)	April 16	<i>No Class, Working on the Field Project</i>	
(W)	April 18	From Dinosaurs to Birds: Evidence and Debates	Chapter 14 +
(M)	April 23	Cenozoic Tectonics and Climate	Chapter 15
(W)	April 25	Life through Time: Cenozoic–The Age of Mammals	Chapter 16
(M)	April 30	Life through Time: Human Origins	Chapter 17
(W)	May 2	Final Exam Review	
(M)	May 7	<i>No formal lecture, office hours in classroom, answering questions</i>	
(W) May 9 Final Exam (8:00 am)			

+ -- Means that additional information (references) will be provided

Logistics and Policies

1. Participation:

I expect that students will come to this class with very different backgrounds and levels of educational training. As a result, you may find some material difficult, feel that you are already familiar with some of the concepts, or have personal experiences that can inform us all. Whatever your situation, please share your position with us through class participation. Most importantly, however, if you are confused about a concept, **please ask questions** in class for clarification and further explanation. You will not be alone in your confusion. There are many ways to present this material, and I will attempt to find one that works for you. If you do not feel comfortable asking questions in class, please contact myself or your lab instructor.

2. Attendance

It is important that you attend class daily because we cover a lot of material, and I will provide guidance for reading assignments and exam questions regularly. You are responsible for all material covered in lectures no matter what causes your absence. If you miss a lecture, get the notes from a classmate. **Neither make-up lectures nor make-up exams will be given** except as specified below. Topics covered may vary from the schedule somewhat, but the exam dates remain fixed. If you are absent from a scheduled exam in either lecture or lab without a written medical or

university excuse, you will receive a zero for that exam. All exams are comprehensive and cover materials presented in lecture, the laboratory, and reading assignments. Review lectures will be provided before the Midterm and Final exams.

3. Laboratory

Concurrent enrollment in a lab section is required. You must enroll for a section of GEY102L (L01 or L02), for zero credit hours. The labs and field trip reports are 30% of your final grade. You will be working in small groups in the lab, and it is a great place to make friends and find people to form a study group.

4. Cheating, Plagiarism, and Academic Dishonesty

You are required to be familiar with university policies and procedures in the current UNLV Undergraduate Catalog. Importantly, we follow the policies on Cheating, Plagiarism, and Academic Dishonesty that are stated in the most recent UNLV Undergraduate Catalog. In the hopes of deterring incidents of cheating and/or plagiarism this class employs a "zero tolerance" policy meaning that if a student commits cheating or plagiarism they receive a grade of F for the class.

5. Copyright Issues

The university requires all members of the University Community to familiarize themselves and to follow copyright and fair use requirements. You are individually and solely responsible for violations of copyright and fair use laws. The University will neither protect you nor defend you nor assume responsibility for employee or student violations and fair use laws. Violations could subject you to federal and state civil liabilities as well as disciplinary action under University policies. To help familiarize yourself with copyright and fair use policies, the University encourages you to visit its copyright web page at <http://www.unlv.edu/committees/copyright>.

6. UNLV Statement on Disability

Disability Resource Center (DRC) is the official office to provide Disability Services. If you have a documented disability that may require assistance, you will need to contact DRC for coordination in your academic accommodations. DRC is located in Student Services Complex, Room 137. The phone is 702-895-0866, or TDD 702-895-0652. You may also visit our website at <http://studentlife.unlv.edu/disability/>

7. Writing Center

Students are welcome to use the UNLV Writing Center free of charge. Consultants can assist students at all stages of the writing process. Students may make appointments by calling the center (895-3908) or in person at FDH-240. The center can be particularly helpful when you are writing or rewriting your lab field reports.

8. Religious Holidays

As a general rule, a student missing a class or lab assignment because of observance of a religious holiday shall have the opportunity to make up missed work. You must notify me by the last day of late registration if this pertains to you and a clear deadline will be set for completion of work.

9. Nondiscrimination

The University of Nevada Las Vegas does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national or ethnic origin, gender, age, sexual orientation, disability, or veteran status.

10. Official Extracurricular Activity

All students who represent UNLV at any official extracurricular activity have the opportunity to make up an assignment. However, you must provide official written notification to me at least 1 week prior to the missed class(es).

11. Learning Environment

The classroom is intended to be a place of learning. As such, and as specified in the UNLV Undergraduate Catalog, no pagers, cell phones, or other potentially disruptive devices are allowed in either lecture or the laboratory.

12. Office hours

Make sure you understand the materials presented in the lectures and Labs. Feel free to contact me during office hours or mail to me at jiangg@unlv.nevada.edu or contact the TA to make an appointment if you do not understand the class and lab materials.