

Syllabus for GEOL-1-D6848

as of January 8, 2024. Prof. Renner reserves the right to make changes at any time; you'll be notified if it's been changed

Course Information

Semester & Year: **Spring 2024**
Course ID & Section #: **GEOL-1-D6848**
Instructor's name: **Professor J. Mark Renner** (please call me either "Professor Renner" or "Mark")
Day/Time of required meetings: **Lectures: 10:05 AM - 11:30 AM on Tuesdays & Thursdays in Room DM23;**
Labs: 10:05AM - 1:15 PM on Fridays in Rooms DM23 and DM26
(several field trips this semester occur during the "lab period" as well)
Course units: **4**

Instructor Contact Information

Office location: **Remote (by Zoom) and/or room DM23 (after class)**
Office hours: By appointment, or immediately after class (no appointment necessary)
Phone number: Not available; instead, use Canvas messaging to contact instructor
Email address: Use Canvas messaging to contact instructor (or mark-renner@redwoods.edu)
Availability:

I normally reply to Canvas messages, emails and posts to the "Questions for the Instructor" forum in Canvas within 48 hours Mon.-Thu. or within 72 hours Fri.-Sun. If a situation arises that prevents my participation or response within this time frame, I will notify the class in an announcement, and will subsequently announce when I've returned.

Required Materials

TEXTBOOK: *Essentials of Geology*, Sixth Edition (Marshak; published by W.W. Norton), ISBN: 978-0393667523.
The Sixth Edition book may be available through the CR Bookstore or from **other vendors**. You may use an electronic or rented version if available, or you may buy a used text if available since **you do NOT need an access code**. **Do NOT buy the newest edition book! This 6th edition book saves you a LOT of money and is superb.**
LAB MANUAL: For this class **you must buy** (or print; *see below*) **the lab manual written by Prof. Renner**. Get it at **The Mail Room**, 900 Northcrest Drive. **It is also available in Canvas for you as free PDF download(s) if you wish to print it yourself** (although you'll likely pay a lot more for your own printer ink & paper than if you'd merely buy it at The Mail Room). **More details will be provided on the first day of class.**

Catalog Description

An introductory study of physical geology with an emphasis on geologic principles and processes. The course explores the internal structure, processes, and origin of the Earth, and the processes of water, wind, gravity, and plate tectonics that contribute to the formation of the Earth's surface. The laboratory component focuses on the identification of rocks and minerals, the reading and interpretation of topographic and geologic maps, and field studies. Students will explore principles of mineral and rock formation, landform development, plate tectonics, volcanism, folding and faulting, and related topics.

Note: Field Trips are required for this course. The college does not provide transportation. We collaboratively determine car-pooling in class or lab so that students with no car can still participate.

Course Student Learning Outcomes

1. Describe how the scientific method is used to understand natural phenomena.
2. Describe the basic elements of plate tectonic theory, including how internal processes help shape the Earth.
3. Apply classification systems to organize and identify igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic rock specimens and mineral specimens, and demonstrate how these classification systems are used to understand Earth processes.
4. Apply geologic principles to describe how earth materials and landscapes change over time, including description of how interactions of Earth systems result in geologic change.

Prerequisites / co-requisites / recommended preparation

None. However, **college-level fluency in English is expected** since you will do a lot of reading and writing.

Educational Accessibility and Support

College of the Redwoods is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for qualified students who could benefit from additional educational support and services. You may qualify if you have a physical, mental, sensory, or intellectual condition which causes you to struggle academically, including but not limited to:

- Mental health conditions such as depression, anxiety, PTSD, bipolar disorder, and ADHD
- Common ailments such as arthritis, asthma, diabetes, autoimmune disorders, and diseases
- Temporary impairments such as a broken bone, recovery from significant surgery, or a pregnancy-related disability
- A learning disability (e.g., dyslexia, reading or general comprehension), autism, or acquired brain injury
- Vision, hearing, or mobility challenges

Available services include extended test time, quiet testing environments, tutoring, counseling and advising, alternate formats of materials (e.g., audio books, E-texts), assistive technology, on-campus transportation, and more. If you believe you might benefit from disability- or health-related services and accommodations, please contact [Disability Services and Programs for Students \(DSPS\)](#). If you are unsure whether you qualify, please contact DSPS for a consultation: dsps@redwoods.edu.

- **Del Norte: 707-465-2324, main building near library**
- Eureka: 707-476-4280, student services building, 1st floor
- Klamath-Trinity: 530-625-4821 Ext 103

Student Support Services

Good information and clear communication about your needs will help you be successful. Please let your instructor know about any specific challenges or technology limitations that might affect your participation in class. College of the Redwoods wants every student to be successful.

The following online resources are available to support your success as a student:

- [CR-Online](#) (Comprehensive information for online students)
- [Library Articles & Databases](#)
- [Canvas help and tutorials](#)
- [Online Student Handbook](#)
- [Online Tutoring Resources](#)

Community College Student Health and Wellness

If you are in distress or are with someone at risk right now, call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (800-273-8255) or text HOME to 741741

Timely Care

When you're feeling under the weather physically or distressed mentally, you can find the help you're looking for in just a few quick taps. Schedule an appointment anytime via phone, video, and chat. [Visit TimelyCARE here](#)

Mental Health Counseling

Students should text, email, or fax Shawna Bell directly for scheduling and/or services.

Contact info.:

Text: 707-496-2856

Email: shawnaabmft@gmail.com

Fax: 707-237-2318 (voicemail can be left via fax)

Wellness Central

Resources, tools, and trainings regarding health, mental health, wellness, basic needs and more designed for California community college students, faculty and staff are available on the [California Community Colleges Wellness Central](#).

Counseling

[Counseling & Advising](#) can assist students in need of academic advising and professional counseling services. Visit the Welcome Center in the lower level of the student services building (on the Eureka campus) Monday –Friday 9am – 4pm (during the semester, summer hours may vary).

Basic Needs Center

The [Basic Needs Center](#) provides for the health and safety of students by providing access to healthy food, financial resources, and referrals to safe and secure housing. Students can submit a request for services and information here.

Contact info.:

Phone: 707-476-4153

Email: the-grove@redwoods.edu

Library/Learning Resource Center on the Del Norte campus

The Library/Learning Resource Center at Del Norte includes the following resources for students:

- Library materials and services;
- Tutoring and test proctoring; and
- Student Tech Help – provides students with assistance around a variety of tech problems.

EOPS

[Extended Opportunity Programs & Services \(EOPS\)](#) provides services to eligible income disadvantaged students including: textbook awards, grants, career academic and personal counseling, transportation assistance, tutoring, laptop, calculator and textbook loans, priority registration, graduation cap and gown, workshops, and more!

TRiO Student Success Program on the Del Norte campus

The TRiO Student Support Services Program provides eligible students with a variety of services including academic advising, career assessments, assistance with transfer, and peer mentoring. Students can apply for the program in Eureka or in [Del Norte](#).

Veterans Resource Center on the Eureka campus

The [Veteran's Resource Center](#) supports and facilitates academic success for Active Duty Military, Veterans and Dependents attending CR through relational advising, mentorship, transitional assistance, and coordination of military and Veteran-specific resources.

CalWORKS

[CalWORKs](#) – California Work Opportunity & Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs). Provides supportive services to student parents with children under the age of 18, who are receiving cash assistance (TANF benefits), to become self-sufficient. Services include: transportation assistance, basic student supplies, tutoring, priority registration, laptop and calculator loans, career, academic, and personal counseling, and more!

Emergency Procedures on the Del Norte Campus; and the Everbridge app

College of the Redwoods has implemented an emergency alert system called **Everbridge**. In the event of an emergency on campus you will receive an alert through your personal email and/or phone. Registration is not necessary in order to receive emergency alerts. Check to make sure your contact information is up-to-date by logging into [WebAdvisor](#) and selecting 'Students' then 'Academic Profile' then 'Current Information Update.'

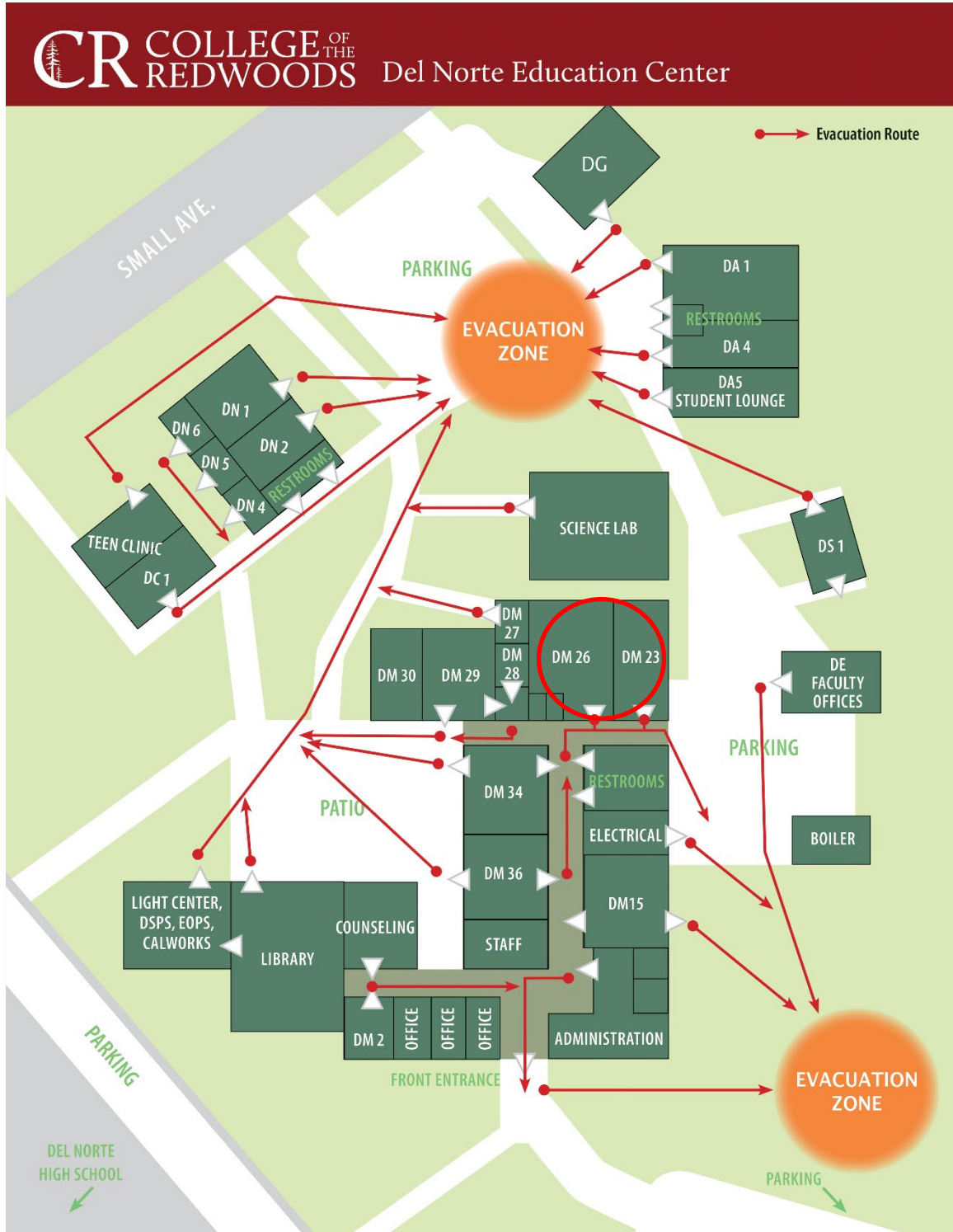
In an emergency that requires an evacuation of any building anywhere in the District:

- Be aware of all marked exits from your area and building
- Once outside, move to the nearest evacuation point outside your building
- Keep streets and walkways clear for emergency vehicles and personnel
- Do not leave campus, unless it has been deemed safe by the campus authorities.

Emergencies or public safety concerns at the Del Norte campus:

Please contact **Public Safety on the Del Norte Campus (707) 465-2311 (or x2111 on campus)** or security@redwoods.edu if you have any questions or issues (**in an immediate crisis or health emergency, instead FIRST dial 911 & report the problem, and then call the Del Norte Campus Public Safety office**).

Please review the [Crescent City campus emergency map](#) for campus evacuation sites, including the closest site to our classrooms DM23 and DM26. *As shown below, from DM23 & 26 we would evacuate to the bottom-right area.*



Class Policies & Practices

Rigor

This is a degree-requirement, transfer-level, lab-based science course. It is comparable in rigor to similar courses taught at any UC or CSU institution. It's imperative that you keep up, as the material will build upon itself. You will most likely succeed* at this class if you work consistently and diligently, participate actively, and submit all work; otherwise, a low or failing grade can be a likely outcome. * Remember, a grade of 'C' means 'satisfactory'; an 'A' grade means 'excellent / outstanding' – *in brief, to obtain an 'A' in this course will require outstanding effort and results. 'A' grades are sometimes earned in this course, but do not expect an 'A' (or even a 'B') without doing the serious work to earn it.* **For the full description of how grades are assigned, please refer to page 5.**

How to Succeed

A “best practice” (which students who’ve gotten grades of ‘A’ usually follow) is to **GET AHEAD AND STAY AHEAD of your reading.** ***You will ALWAYS be expected to have read the lecture document(s) for the week’s class sessions BEFORE CLASS, along with textbook chapter(s) cited in the lecture documents. Likewise for each week’s lab: you MUST read the lab document BEFORE lab (to become familiar with what we’ll be covering).*** Finally, right before class or lab, it would be helpful to review what you’ve already read for that week’s work, so that when you enter the classroom or lab you will be thoroughly prepared.

What to do if class is cancelled, or if you miss a class or lab

Classes or labs might be cancelled unexpectedly (instructor illness, etc.). (If this happens, college staff and/or I will contact you.) **IF SO, CONTINUE TO DO THE WORK OUTLINED IN THE CLASS SCHEDULE AS BEST AS POSSIBLE.** Upon our very next class, I will bring us back up to speed, but **this is ONLY possible IF you continue to do the work outlined in the Class Schedule; at the very minimum, do all the assigned readings on schedule.**

NOTE: If you miss class or lab, contact the instructor as soon as you can. **Excessive absences can be grounds for being dropped from class (see next section), so communication with the instructor is absolutely imperative.**

Expectations on Students, and General Information

Please be aware of the following:

- **Participation:** For this class, ***“participation” is defined as ACTIVE, REGULAR, ENGAGED INVOLVEMENT IN CLASS DISCUSSIONS, ACTIVITIES, LABS and ASSIGNMENTS (not merely the act of showing up for class).*** Furthermore, weekly class quizzes, assignments and other instructor-led activities require continuous involvement and have specific deadlines (which are specified in the separate Class Schedule and/or in the assignments themselves) and ***make-ups are generally NOT allowed.*** To ensure that you succeed, plan to participate thoroughly in class and do any/all needed study & preparation before class. Missing classes or labs will prevent complete participation, so **attend and actively participate in every class and lab if possible!**
- **Instructor-Initiated Drops:** Because consistent attendance & participation are crucial components in this class, **I may unenroll or withdraw (“drop”) you if any of the following should occur:**
 - **During Week Three (between Jan. 29 – Feb. 2):** Students may be unenrolled if the instructor has determined them to have exhibited poor or irregular participation and/or attendance in the first two weeks of class (*in which case their transcript will NOT show a class “attempt”*).

- **After Week Three and at any time until Mar. 29:** Students may be withdrawn (dropped by instructor) (in which case they **WILL** get a “W” on their transcript) if **any one** of these apply: *
 - 1) If a student fails to attend four (4) or more **lecture** sessions; or
 - 2) If a student fails to attend two (2) or more **lab** sessions; or
 - 3) If a student fails to submit/participate in – or is chronically late in submitting/participating in – significant portions of class or lab assignments/activities/reports

* If you are in jeopardy of being dropped by the instructor for any of the reasons listed above, your instructor will attempt to contact you (in person, or by Canvas message and/or by your CR email account and/or by phone) with a “drop warning.” If you then wish to appeal to stay in class and not be dropped, you must reply within 24 hours to my drop warning. A student’s failure to receive or reply to this drop warning does **not** provide immunity from being dropped, and the instructor retains the final authority regarding whether or not you will be dropped. If the instructor then submits the drop (normally 48-72 hours after issuing the warning) to Enrollment Services, the drop is final and **cannot** be reversed; no exceptions.
- **Mar. 29 is the last day I can drop you (see above) or that you can withdraw from this class.** After that day, you **will** receive a letter grade for the course at the end of the semester (even if you’ve stopped participating in and/or attending class) based upon whatever points/scores you’ve accumulated during the semester; see “**Grading**” section on page 5.
- **Academic Honesty:** In the academic community, the high value placed on truth implies a corresponding intolerance of scholastic dishonesty. ***In cases involving academic dishonesty, determination of the grade and of the student’s status in the course is left primarily to the discretion of the faculty member.*** In such cases where the instructor determines that a student has demonstrated academic dishonesty, the student may receive a failing grade for the assignment and may be reported to the Chief Student Services Officer or designee. **The Student Conduct Code (AP 5500) is available on the CR website.** Additional information about the rights and responsibilities of students, Board policies, and administrative procedures are all located in the **college catalog** and **website**.
- **Usage of generative artificial intelligence (“AI”):** Recent advancements in AI have made large language models such as ChatGPT and Google’s Bard widely available. However, overuse of these tools can undermine your learning and curtail the development of your critical and creative thinking skills. In addition, AI outputs are often unreliable and frequently subject to bias. For these reasons, **the policy of this class is that AI cannot be used at any point in the completion of class assignments.** Your instructor’s reason for this is that in using AI you may miss out on the opportunity to truly learn geology rather than merely reiterating what you have found from ChatGPT, etc.
- **Class Norms & Expectations, with focus on Disruptive Behavior & Inclusive Language:** In this class (and in fact in every college class), students must demonstrate mutual respect in their interactions with their peers and with the instructor, because doing so emulates the real-world expectations on citizens, employers and employees. I expect you to use language that is inclusive and respectful. Furthermore, student **behavior or speech that disrupts the instructional setting will not be tolerated.** **Disruptive conduct may include, but is not limited to: unwarranted interruptions; failure to adhere to instructor’s requests/directions; language which is overly loud, vulgar, obscene, profane, demeaning, disrespectful or insulting; slurs or other forms of intimidation; and physically or verbally abusive behavior.** **In your communications I expect you to be courteous, constructive and accepting of diversity.** I treat egregious disruptive conduct, **as exemplified above,** as violations of the Student Conduct Code and if such should occur will pursue remedies per the Student Conduct Code.
- **Pay attention to the Class Schedule.** Points are assigned to tasks that you’re asked to do; failure to do tasks or to do them within the required time frame will cause you to lose points. Late work may be penalized or entirely rejected, at the instructor’s sole discretion.

- **Major Exams:** Major lecture exams and lab exams occur at various times during the semester (see Schedule). See next entry if you see that you will miss – or have missed – one of these important exams.
- **Late or Missed Exams or Assignments:** If a documentable and excusable situation (e.g. jury duty, serious illness or injury, emergency, etc.) arises that prevents you from submitting assigned major class work * or exams on time, then **contact me before (if possible) or as soon as possible after missing the work**. If I agree to accept the late work (or to provide a make-up exam), then we will negotiate a timeframe within which the work must be submitted or exam taken.
(* Some work items [such as quizzes and class discussions/activities] cannot be made up if missed.)

Grading (on next page)

Grading Breakdown

Points are earned for completed tasks. Late work may be penalized or entirely rejected, at the instructor's sole discretion. The table below shows how points can be earned. **There is NO "EXTRA CREDIT" in this course; do NOT ask for Extra Credit since there will not normally be any such accommodation (unless the instructor creates such an opportunity for everyone).** Here is how you earn points in the course:

Course Components and how they factor into the end-of-semester Course Letter Grade¹

Lecture Items	Percent ²	Comments
Class Activities	10% (# of activities may vary ³)	Points awarded for active, thoughtful, thorough participation in required class activities.
Quizzes	10% (# of quizzes may vary ³)	Open-book, open-note quizzes which are to be completed BEFORE selected lectures and/or labs, and then brought to class for interactive grading & submission.
"Mid-term" Exams	16% (2 @ 8% ea.)	Each exam is a synthesis of course materials covered prior to that exam. Closed-book, closed-note. Timed (85 minutes each unless otherwise stated). Exam One in approximately week 6*, Exam Two in approximately week 12* (* subject to change; see Schedule).
Final Exam	14%	This exam is comprehensive , covering all materials covered in the semester. Closed-book, closed-note. Timed (120 minutes unless otherwise stated). Administered on Thursday during Finals Week (see Schedule).
Lab Items	Percent ²	Comments
Lab Completion & Participation	30%	You will be "checked off" on a completion list at the end of each successfully-completed lab exercise, based on your submitted end-of-lab write-ups.
Lab Exams	10% (2 @ 5% ea.)	Mineral exam: Description & ID of a set of "unknown" mineral specimens; Rock exam: Description & ID of a set of "unknown" rock specimens
Rock Project	10%	As per a separate document, you will collect and report on an outcrop and a specimen gathered at that location.

¹ At the end of the semester, a letter grade will be assigned. The instructor may, at his option, uniformly "curve" the cumulative raw class scores upward (but never downward) to derive cumulative final percentage scores. In this course, letter grades are assigned from the cumulative final percentage scores as follows:

A = 93% or above	A- = 90-92.9%	"Excellent" : Fulfills all requirements; exceeds expectations.
B+ = 86-89.9%	B = 83-85.9%	B- = 80-82.9%
C+ = 76-79.9%	C = 70.0-75.9%	"Good" : Fulfills all requirements; meets most expectations.
D = 60-69.9%		"Satisfactory" : Fulfills most requirements; meets some expectations.
F < 60%		"Poor" : Fulfills some requirements; does not meet expectations.
		"Failing" : Does not fulfill requirements or expectations.

(CR policy does not provide for a grade of **A+** or **C-** or **D+** or **D-**)

² Each "Item" category above (such as "Class Activities" or "Quizzes") is assigned a weighting, by percentage, of the entire course's possible value; the categories add up to 100% of the total possible course value. Within any category, grading "points" are assigned for specific items in that category (such as "10 points possible for each quiz", or "100 points possible for each major lecture exam", etc.). The usage of "points" allows me to assign easily-understood grading values for each item within a given category AND ³ allows me at any time to add or remove an item(s) within that category without changing that item category's percentage value. While true that "the value of each point" in one category will differ from "the value of each point" in another category, the total points within each category are mathematically converted to the percentage of the course grade for that category as stated in the table above.

If you experience a specific, extenuating circumstance **beyond your control** preventing you from completing the course work, and face a non-passing grade or the need to withdraw...

... you can complete & submit the **Excused Withdrawal Petition** to request an **Excused Withdrawal (EW)** "grade" (instead of receiving a Withdrawal "grade" [W] or a non-passing grade [D, F, or NP]). Your instructor can provide more information upon request. *Supporting documentation is required.*

Class Schedule

This is provided in a separate "Schedule" document which is subject to change (instructor will notify students if/when any change is made)

Admissions deadlines & enrollment policies that affect this class

- **1/16/2024** – FIRST DAY OF THIS **GEOL-1** CLASS
- **1/19/2024** – Last day to add a class
- **1/26/2024 @ 5:00 PM PST** – Last day to drop without a W
- **2/05/2024 @ 5:00 PM PST** – Prof. Renner drops students who have not been fully participating in class
- **2/16/2024** – Lincoln's Birthday (all campuses closed; **no lab today**)
- **3/07/2024** – Last day to petition to graduate; last day to petition for a Certificate
- **Week of 3/11 - 3/15/2024** – Spring break (**no classes nor lab**)
- **3/29/2024 @ 5:00 PM PDT** – Last day for student-initiated withdrawal; last day for faculty-initiated drop (with W grade issued); no refund
- **5/9/2024** – Final exam administered in this class
- **5/9/2024** – Last day to submit any/all materials in GEOL-1; **no exceptions**
- **5/10/2024 @ 5:00 pm PDT** – semester ends
- **5/17/2024 @ 5:00 pm PDT** – instructor will release grades to WebAdvisor by (and possibly before) now
- **5/24/2024 @ 5:00 pm PDT** – Your grades from the spring semester will be available for transcript release by (and possibly before) now