

GEOLOGY 350 COURSE INFORMATION

GRADING

Midterm (during lab time)	20%
Final	20%
Labs	60%

In my grading method the score you receive on each item (e.g., midterm, final) is weighted by a factor that makes it count the % indicated in the table above. These values are totaled to yield an overall weighted sum--the total number of points you have earned in the course (1000 weighted points is perfect). I plot all the weighted sums as a histogram (bar graph) and look for natural clusterings in order to separate out the A's, B's, C's, etc. This is a modified class average system. Typically I have found that there will be 10-15% A's, 15-25% B's, 50-60% C's, and 5-10% D's or lower. **The main cause of low grades (D or below) is not doing labs.** If you don't turn in a lab, I have to give you a zero for it. Turning in a partially completed lab is preferable to turning in no lab at all--at least you can get *some* credit. I have never yet had someone who is truly conscientious about their lab work get less than a C.

LAB INFORMATION

LAB MATERIALS (available at bookstore)

BRING THE FOLLOWING MATERIALS TO LAB EACH TIME

- eraser (Artgum or white vinyl type)--your most important tool
- 2H pencils
- colored pencils: red, blue, green, brown, yellow, purple
- Sharpie *sharp point* pens: red, blue, green
- 6" transparent plastic ruler with divisions in tenths and 50th's of an inch (C-Thru W-37)
- calculator
- Rite-in-the-Rain field notebook #301 or #371 (bring on field trips)
- hand lens (bring on field trips)

GENERAL INFORMATION

As I see it, the Geology 350 lab has three main objectives:

- 1) to develop your skill in using and interpreting topographic maps and aerial photos, so that you can obtain from them both simple quantitative data and the maximum amount of geomorphic/ geologic data;
- 2) to improve your skills in field interpretation and analysis; and
- 3) most importantly, to develop your skill in geological reasoning.

There will be four field labs: one to look at faulting, crustal deformation, and soils in the Trinidad area; one to look at landslide morphology and causes in the Blue Lake vicinity; one to look at fluvial processes, and one to look at coastal geomorphology and erosion. The remaining labs will involve fairly intensive study and interpretation of topographic maps and, occasionally, airphotos. Several labs will involve measuring or mapping on tracing-paper overlays.

Past experience shows that you can expect to spend **6-10 hours per week on the labs outside of class time.** The labs are *not* designed to be completed in a simple three-hour period--the lab time is chiefly to get you started and to help you with problems. Since there is no other homework in the course (other than reading in the text), this is not an unreasonable burden. (Since I hear regular complaints that the labs are "too much work", I wish to share with you my philosophy of learning/ teaching: **you only get out of a course what you put into it.** If you put little effort or thought into it, you will come away with very little; if you put much effort and thought into it, you will learn a lot and reap the rewards in your future courses/career.)

Because people have a tendency to get increasingly behind in their work, I shall be fairly rigid on the due dates for lab assignments. **Late work-** unless given special permission beforehand- **will be penalized.**

It is important to make up any lab that you happen to miss, since the labs generally build upon one another. If you know in advance that you will have to miss a lab, let me know. You can generally make up a missed lab by working on your own in the lab (the room is open until 10 PM and can be used any time it is free.) Exams can be made up in case of illness or by prearrangement with me. You will have to make up missed field trips on your own.

FIELD TRIPS ARE AN ESSENTIAL PART OF THE COURSE. YOU SHOULD COME PREPARED FOR HIKING ON UNEVEN AND SOMETIMES WET TERRAIN. IT IS WISE TO BE PREPARED FOR COLD AND WET CONDITIONS. YOU WILL NEED TO BRING SEVERAL PENCILS, ERASER, A RITE-IN-THE-RAIN FIELD NOTEBOOK, HAND LENS, AND A RULER CALIBRATED IN 10TH'S OF AN INCH. A CLIPBOARD WILL BE HELPFUL. You may also want to bring a geologist's pick, pack, etc.