



Course Information

- Semester and Year: Fall 2026
- Course Title: Physical Geology: Dynamic Earth
- Course Prefix and Number: GLG101IN
- Section Number: 11642/11643
- Credit Hours: 4
- Start Date: 9/9/26
- End Date: 12/14/26
- Room Number: NS406
- Meeting Days: Monday and Wednesday
- Meeting Times: 12:30 – 3:30
- Class Format: Entirely in-person!!

Instructor Information

- Instructor: Merry Wilson
- Email: merry.wilson@scottsdalecc.edu
- Phone: 480.423.6392
- Office Location: NS130
- Office Hours: M 10-11, T 1:30-2:30, W 3:30-4:30, Th 10:30-11:30

Course Description

A study of the kind and arrangement of materials composing the earth's crust and the geological processes at work on and within the earth's surface.

Prerequisites and/or Corequisites

- None

Course Competencies

1. Describe the scientific foundations of physical geology
2. Describe the building blocks of matter
3. Describe the three-part classification of rock processes.
4. Explain the concept of geologic time.
5. Describe geologic structures in crustal rocks.
6. Describe the internal structure of the earth.
7. Explain the theory of plate tectonics.
8. Describe the process of weathering.
9. Describe coastal processes.

10. Explain the geological processes associated with deserts.
11. Describe glaciation and glacial landforms.
12. Describe the importance of geology to man.
13. Describe the earth's place in the cosmos.

Texts and Course Materials

ScreenPal or other free screen capturing software

Microphone

Web Camera

Course Policies

The following are policies specific to this course. Students are also responsible for the college policies included on the [Student Regulations](#) page of the Maricopa Community College District website.

Academic Misconduct. Cheating will not be tolerated. FYI, I can google answers just as easily as you can. I can use Artificial Intelligence (ChatGPT, Bing, etc) as easily as you can. I also have access to metrics that tell me how long it took you to complete an assignment. If found cheating, you will receive an F for the course.

You **will be** withdrawn from the course if you:

1. You do not attend the first day of class and do not communicate with me.
2. You ask.
3. You are absent for two consecutive weeks.

You **will NOT be** withdrawn from this course:

1. After the 14th week of the 16-week semester
2. If your two weeks of inactivity is not completed (#3 above) by the 14th week of the semester.
This means that if you stop showing up in week 13 of the semester, you will only have been inactive for 1 week by the 14th week and will not be automatically withdrawn.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is required. You are allowed two absences with no penalty.

Instructional Contact Hours and Minimum Course Expectations

Instructional contact hours are the weekly time students spend directly learning with their instructor or course activities. These activities include, but are not limited to, lectures, discussions, labs, group work, and viewing recordings. Instructional contact hours vary by course; refer to the [MCCCD course bank](#) for your course's details.

Minimum course expectations include the number of hours students are expected to spend outside of class (weekly) completing coursework. Students are encouraged to use the [Time Management Calculator](#) to help estimate their weekly time commitment for classes.

Course Technologies

View the [Accessibility Statements & Privacy Policies](#) of the technologies used in this course.

Maricopa Systems

This course uses key Maricopa systems for course management and communication.

- Canvas Learning Management System
- Student Maricopa Gmail Account
- Maricopa Open Educational Resource Learning System (MOER)

Student Assignment Tools

This course requires students to participate in or submit assignments using desktop or cloud-based applications.

- Google Products
- Microsoft Office 365
- ScreenPal

Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy

The World Economic Forum defines generative AI as “a category of artificial intelligence (AI) algorithms that generate new outputs based on the data they have been trained on. Unlike traditional AI systems that are designed to recognize patterns and make predictions, generative AI creates new content in the form of images, text, audio, and more.”

Some examples of generative AI tools include but are not limited to: ChatGPT, Google Gemini, Microsoft Copilot, Stable Diffusion, GrammarlyGo, and Adobe Firefly.

No Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) Allowed

In this class, all work submitted must be your own. The use of generative AI tools will be considered academic misconduct (see Administrative Regulation 2.3.11 1.B(b)) and will be treated as such. If you are unsure if the tool or website you are using is a generative AI tool, please contact the instructor for further clarification before using the tool or website.

Grading Standards and Practices

Grade Scale

Letter Grade	Points Range
A	90 – 100%
B	80 – 89%
C	70 – 79%
D	60 – 69%
F	0 – 59%

Assignments

Assignment Name	Points	Percent of Grade
Lecture:		75% total
1. Exams	4 x 100	= 40%
2. Investigations	3 x 100	= 25%
3. Attendance	100	= 10%
Laboratory:		25% total
1. Activities	14 x 15 = 210	= 14.5%*
2. Practical Exams	3 x 50 = 150	= 10.5%*
TOTAL:		100%

GLG101IN is a combined lecture/lab class, worth a total of 4 credits. It transfers as a science requirement. Lecture material is 75% of your grade (or 3 of the 4 total credits), Lab is the remaining 25% (1 credit). You will receive 1 grade for this course.

Lecture Exams (40%)

There are 4 regularly scheduled exams throughout the semester, each worth 100 points. Check the calendar for tentative dates (subject to change). Missed exams must be made up at the testing center by the next class period unless otherwise determined by the instructor. It is up to you to schedule this exam with the testing center.

Investigations (25%)

There are 3 video investigations throughout the semester, each worth 100 points. Check the calendar for due dates. They require a computer and webcam/microphone. They are accepted up to 1 week late.

Attendance (10%)

Attendance is required and will be taken at the beginning of each class. Tardiness will result in 80% of the points awarded up to 20 minutes late. No credit will be given if you arrive later than 20 minutes or leave more than 20 minutes early. If you are a slave to technology (on a laptop or phone not related to class), you will also receive 80% attendance points.

Laboratory Activities (14.5%)

There are 14 lab assignments, each worth 15 points. Some last up to 2 lab periods. Lab assignments must be completed in the classroom. Make-up sessions for missed lab activities are scheduled (see calendar) and must be completed prior to the practical exam on that topic. When a lab assignment is completed, you may leave. *This category is worth slightly more than 14.5%, because it is averaged with practical exams and based on overall point totals.

Practical Exams (10.5%)

There are 3 practical exams over laboratory material, each worth 50 points. See calendar for dates (subject to change). Missed practical exams can be made up on the make-up day at the end of the semester (see calendar).

Response Time

Students can expect a response time of **24 hours**, Monday through Friday, 5 pm (except holidays) for the instructor to respond to messages sent via the Canvas Learning Management System or merry.wilson@scottsdalecc.edu. Emails received after 5 pm Friday will be responded to on Monday morning. Students can expect assignments to be graded within **one week** of the assignment's due date.

Tutoring

SCC's tutors are available online to help with your courses. You may work with an SCC tutor remotely using Google Meet, your phone, or email. Visit the [Tutoring & Learning Centers](#) page for detailed information on the five learning centers' hours and procedures.

If you need to work with a tutor outside regular hours, online and hybrid students now have access to a 24/7 online tutoring service called Brainfuse. To access Brainfuse and begin working with a tutor, visit the [SCC Online Tutoring Services Through Brainfuse](#) page.

MCCCD Policies

MCCCD is committed to providing a safe, fair, and accessible environment for all students. This includes laws such as the ADA and Title IX, which protect against discrimination. These statements explain your rights, available support, and where to go for help or more information. Please review the following policies:

[Classroom Accommodations for Students with Disabilities](#)

[Addressing Incidents of Title IX Sexual Harassment](#)

Students are responsible for the information contained in this syllabus, the Syllabus page in your Canvas course and the **College Policies & Student Services** page found in the First Steps module of your Canvas course. Students will be notified by the instructor of any changes in course requirements or policies.