SCOTTSDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Course Information

- Semester and Year: Fall 2026
- Course Title: Historical Geology: Primordial to Present
- Course Prefix and Number: GLG102IN
- Section Number:
- Credit Hours: 4
- Start Date: 9/8/26
- End Date: 12/11/26
- Room Number:
- Meeting Days:
- Meeting Times:
- Class Format: Online

Instructor Information

- Instructor: Dr. Merry Wilson
- Email: merry.wilson@scottsdalecc.edu
- Phone: 480.423.6392
- Office Location: NS130
- Office Hours: By appointment online

Course Description

The origin and history of the Earth, its dynamic geographic and climatic changes. Evolution and sequence of life recorded in the fossil record; tectonic evolution of major continents through time.

Prerequisites and/or Corequisites

- None

Course Competencies

1. Describe how scientific inquiry has shaped commonly held ideas about the geologic history of the Earth.
2. Explain how minerals and rocks are formed.
3. Describe the current theory of plate tectonics and provide scientific evidence that supports this concept.
4. Describe techniques used to date geologic strata and explain the limitations of each.
5. Explain the process of fossilization and describe how that might relate to the completeness of the fossil record.
6. Describe how fossil record relates to geologic stratigraphy and the geologic time scale.

7. Identify important fossils in hand specimen and explain how they can be used to date geologic strata.
8. Distinguish between the characteristics of sedimentary, igneous and metamorphic rocks and explain their importance in interpreting the Earth`s history.
9. Outline the development of evolution theory and provide evidence supporting this concept.
10. Distinguish between the various eons and eras of the Earth`s history and explain their relationship to life forms, climate and plate tectonics.
11. Identify folds and faults using geologic maps and explain how they can be used to interpret the geologic history of an area.

General Education & Institutional Learning Outcomes

General Education provides foundational learning experiences that contribute to academic and career success. It is reflected in Scottsdale Community College's Institutional Learning Outcomes: Arts & Humanities Awareness, Career Readiness, Critical Thinking and Problem Solving, Effective Communication, Information Literacy, and Social Responsibility. Students who take GLG101IN will learn focus on enhancing their critical thinking and problem solving.

Program Learning Outcomes

Credit-bearing courses at Scottsdale Community College can count toward the completion of a degree or certificate program. Each program has Program Learning Outcomes, which are learned assets that students can claim to have acquired by completing their academic or occupational program at SCC. Program Learning Outcomes can be found on the Degrees and Certificates page of the SCC Website. For each degree, look under "What You'll Learn."

This course is a General Education course that is foundational to many degree programs and a key component of the Arizona General Education Curriculum (AGEC) certificate program. This course fulfills a science requirement for the AGEC.

This course most directly applies to the Associate of **Science**, Emphasis in **Geology**, however it is designed with the general education student in mind.

Texts and Course Materials

None

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. This is not allowed. I also have access to metrics that will flag a student's work for Academic Misconduct. If your assignment is flagged, you will receive a zero with an opportunity to be re-awarded points after a one-on-one conversation over the material. After three unmitigated zeros, you may receive an F in the class.

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

1. You do not complete the introductory exercise within 2 days of the course start.
2. You ask (up until the 11th week of the semester, which is our Week 9) and remain in good standing (see course policies above).
3. You do not complete two consecutive weeks of course materials.

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

1. You have asked to remain in the class after contact concerning #3 above. I will not ask again. You're in the class at this point!
2. After the 11th week of the 16-week semester.
3. Your first two weeks of inactivity is not completed (#3 above) by the 11th week of the semester. This means that if you stop showing up in week 10 of the semester, you will only have been inactive for 1 week by the 11th week and **will not** be automatically withdrawn.
4. You have violated course policies regarding Academic Misconduct, see Course Policies above.

Attendance Policy

There is no attendance policy beyond the withdrawal policy stated above.

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
- Adobe Creative Cloud

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. Though no generative AI is allowed, submitted answers will go through an AI checker, if the student answer is flagged as greater than 25% AI written, you will receive a zero for the entire assignment.

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
Knowledge Checks	100 each	25%
Unit Quizzes	100 each	25%
Discussion	Various	25%

Laboratory Exercises and Assesments	100	25%
TOTAL:		100%

Knowledge Checks (25%) are of various individual point totals. Knowledge checks are designed to deliver the majority of the content in the course. They are set up as textbooks and videos with embedded quiz questions that are graded automatically. Each can be completed twice. You may not have access to them after you've accessed them twice, so be sure to take notes as you go.

Unit Quizzes (25%) There are bi-weekly quizzes over materials using Respondus Lockdown Browser. These quizzes are over material from the knowledge checks.

Discussion (25%) Discussion posts are designed to provide a point of critical thinking and application of concepts. Some discussions are written and some require the student to create short videos to research/explain a topic.

Laboratory Exercises (25%) are each worth 100 points. This is a laboratory course, so 1 of the 4 required credits of the class is devoted entirely to laboratory activities. These are designed as exploration and application activities. They are graded on completeness and accuracy.

Late Work. You have a 48-hour grace period with no penalty to turn in late work with one exception - no late discussion **responses** will be allowed. Original discussion posts are accepted up to 48 hours late, but all responses must be submitted by the deadline. The reason: you can do these early, and it's a discussion that others will stop looking at after that point, so there's no point in doing them late. Additionally, no late work is accepted, regardless of due date, after the official end of the course.

Student/Instructor Interaction

In this course, you can expect regular and substantive interaction (RSI) that aligns with Scottsdale Community College's mission to provide challenging and supportive learning experiences and the US Department of Education's requirement for regular and substantive interaction (RSI) for online courses. My commitment to your success includes the following:

- Being available during regularly scheduled student support hours as stated in the syllabus.
- Providing group or individual feedback regularly on assignments.
- Promptly responding to student questions about the course sent via email, or the Canvas inbox.
- Regularly posting announcements about the course content and activities.
- Monitor your academic progress and communicate concerns, as needed.

Response Time

During the work week (Monday through Friday 5pm), students can expect a response time of **24 hours** for the instructor to respond to messages sent via the Canvas Learning Management System or @scottsdalecc.edu email. Messages received during the weekend (5 pm Friday through Sunday)

will be responded to on Monday morning. Holidays will adjust these times. 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.