

### Course information:

This is an online course that explores Earth's natural landscape, rocks and minerals, rivers and oceans, volcanism, earthquakes, and other processes inside the Earth. This course also covers topics on the effects of human use on the Earth and its resources.

We will be learning and communicating using the online learning platform Wiley **Engage**, through which you will access and submit all course materials.

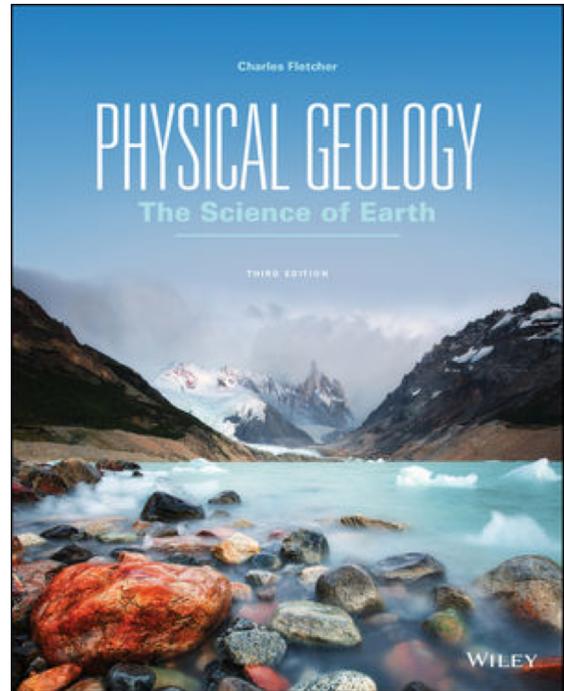
**Instructor:** Dr. Bridget Smith-Konter

**E-mail:** [brkonter@hawaii.edu](mailto:brkonter@hawaii.edu)

**Office location:** POST 819D (but working remotely)

**Office hours:** TBD (a link will be provided in the Wiley Engage classroom, see below). If you have questions or concerns, you may also email me and I will respond as quickly as I can.

I will "officially" be able to answer emails 5x/week, Monday through Friday until 7am - 11pm, and unofficially on the weekends as time permits. If you have emailed me and haven't received an immediate reply, please be patient before you try me again. I will respond, I promise! Normally I may be able to get back to you very quickly.



### Course Technologies – Wiley Engage

We will be using the online course platform **Engage**. Directions for accessing the eBook and online program will be provided before the Spring 2021 semester begins.

### About Engage:

- **Study online and offline with interactive eTextbook** (*Physical Geology, C. Fletcher*) Responsive and mobile-ready platform can be used across all devices. Study online and offline, highlight, take notes, and search across the entire book with the embedded Wiley eTextbook *Physical Geology, The Science of Earth 3rd Edition*.
- **Receive instant feedback on homework** Auto-graded homework and quizzes give instant performance feedback to improve the learning process.
- **Stay on track** All-in-one calendar, progress tracking, and collaboration tools help you stay focused and engaged. Checkboxes track your progress, showing an at-a-glance view of your completed and uncompleted activities in each chapter module.

### Why Take This Course?

This course will provide you with a new view of the world. For the rest of your life you will carry a special perspective that only an understanding of geology can provide. A geology course can make you a better member of your community because you will understand your home planet, you will know how to avoid natural hazards, you will know how to sustain natural resources, you will understand that global warming is real, you will become an informed voter, and you will improve your critical thinking skills.

### Types of Course Activities & Assignments

- Video Lectures (weekly topic lectures and any other videos I may post)
- Chapter Readings (usually the eTextbook but I may post other stuff too)
- Homework Quizzes (weekly assignments, based on chapter topics)
- Midterm exams
- Final exam

### Course Evaluation and Assessment

Your final grade will be based on the total number of points received from weekly assignments (quizzes), exams, and timely progress (tracked) through the course material (i.e., review of lectures, chapter readings, multimedia, practice exercises):

Timely progress through course material	15%
Weekly assignments (quizzes)	40%
Midterm Exam 1	15%
Midterm Exam 2	15%
Final Exam	15%

Grading Scale: A=90-100%, B=80-89.99%, C=70-79.99%, D=60-69.99%, F=Less than 60%

### NOTE: Please read this section carefully and completely!

Late work will **NOT** be accepted and I cannot extend the deadlines for any reason. Since you will be submitting all your assignments online, missing the weekly deadlines for assignments for any reason results in an automatic zero. You will always have over a full week to complete the weekly chapter modules, quizzes and exams. Get your work done well before the deadline and your life (and mine!) will be smooth.

*Assignments (quizzes) and exams may **NOT** be made up later than the due date so please do not ask.*

### Class participation

Be sure to always read class-related emails and online announcements to enhance your participation and stay current.

- **Students are encouraged to watch all online lecture presentations.**
- **Students are expected to read the assigned readings, and complete all assignments on time.**

- Students are expected to read the assigned sections in the text and any other sources provided.
- Students are expected to ask relevant questions.
- Students are expected to pay attention to online announcements and course documents.
- The instructor will send emails to individual students. **You must use your UH email account or make sure it is forwarded to other accounts if you use them. The instructor takes no responsibility if you fail to check your UH email account.**
- Students enrolled in this online class are expected to keep up with all assignments on a timely basis. **Please note:** for any email you send me, please remember that I get a lot of emails so please include in the subject line: your full name, course name (ERTH101), and the topic of your email (e.g. Valentino Rossi ERTH101 Streams Learning Module Quiz).

### Tips for success

- **Lectures:** Watch all lectures if you can, as they are the key to your success in this course. Some aspects of the course material will be covered in more detail in class lecture than is provided in the text.
- **Homework:** Do *each* homework assignment (quiz), and submit each one on time. Homework assignments help you learn the material and are a great study guide for the exams.
- **Exams:** Do not miss an exam. Study. Read. Review.
- **Questions:** Questions are welcome and encouraged. Your questions are likely to help other students as well, so you should never feel intimidated to ask questions about course material.
- **Read:** Your course eTextbook will reinforce lecture material, so complete each reading assignment. Read each week to keep up with course notes.

### Planning for Network Outages

Since this is an online course it relies heavily on the Internet and having a good Internet connection. Your quizzes and exams are taken over the Internet so make sure you are somewhere with a good connection. Occasionally there are internal problems with UH's network or online platforms. Usually these problems are temporary and your quizzes and exams will not be affected. More often than not, there are external problems with your Internet service or your connection. For this reason, I would suggest that you get your assignments completed well before the deadline approaches. If you have issues taking a quiz or exam, and it is **NOT** within two hours of the deadline, I will always happily reset a quiz or exam for you. Just email me and will respond as promptly as I can. However, if it is within two hours of the deadline there may not be time for me to respond and you will not get a second chance. Just to be clear, you will normally have over seven days to complete your assignments. If you elect to complete them at the last minute and something goes wrong with your life or your Internet connection then I may not be able to reset your quiz or exam. ☹

### Protocols for communicating with your instructor and other students via the Internet

- In the subject line of emails indicate who you are, which class you're in, and what the content of the email is, for example **"Kelsey Jones, EARTH101: question on Chap 3 about Mantle Melting"**.
- **Sign off with your full name** at the end of your email. Believe it or not, I may not recognize you if you just put "Chuckie".
- Emailing, messaging and posting on discussion boards in academia are different from emailing buddies and posting in newsgroups. You are expected to be courteous at all times, e.g. **"I would like to ask ..."**. People are easily offended and take things the wrong way. If you have any question that what you are sending may not be ok, have somebody else read it first.
- Email doesn't have the subtleties of spoken or face-to-face conversation, and it's remarkably easy to be misunderstood or to offend someone. Therefore, stay polite: **"I have been working on this assignment for the past 2 hours – but am not getting any further. I like you to give me some advice."** Be nice.
- Assume that the instructor is willing to help you with problems, **"Dr. Smith-Konter, please get back to me at your earliest convenience."** Hence, intend to post using positive language. I am here to help you.
- If you believe someone has violated these procedures, do not post a follow-up to the offending post. Send a private email to your instructor about the violation and let the instructor handle the situation. Do not try to resolve it on your own. Be polite.
- Do not use all caps and do not use exclamation points. THAT'S LIKE SHOUTING!!!!!!
- Allow the instructor time to respond. If you send an email or post a message on the weekend or on a weekday late afternoon, do not expect an instructor's response until later in the evening or the next business day.

### Audit Policy

There are no requirements to auditing this class if you decide to change later in the semester.

### Plagiarism and Cheating Policy

As per university policy: Academic integrity is a basic principal that requires all students to take credit for the ideas and efforts that are their own. Cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty are defined as the submission of materials in assignment, exams, or other academic work that is based on sources prohibited by the faculty member. Academic dishonesty is defined further in the "Student Code of Conduct." In addition to any adverse academic action, which may result from the academically dishonest behavior, the University specifically reserves the right to address and sanction the conduct involved through student judicial review procedures and the Academic Dispute Resolution Procedure specified in the University catalogue.

### Student Learning Objectives

This course will aim to meet the following undergraduate student learning objectives, as established by the Department of Geology & Geophysics:

1. Students can explain the relevance of geology and geophysics to human needs, including those appropriate to Hawaii, and be able to discuss issues related to geology and its impact on society and planet Earth.
2. Students can apply technical knowledge of relevant computer applications, laboratory methods, and field methods to solve real-world problems in geology and geophysics.
3. Students use the scientific method to define, critically analyze, and solve a problem in Earth science.
4. Students can reconstruct, clearly and ethically, geological knowledge in both oral presentations and written reports.
5. Students can evaluate, interpret, and summarize the basic principles of geology and geophysics, including the fundamental tenets of the sub- disciplines, and their context in relationship to other core sciences, to explain complex phenomena in geology and geophysics.

### Student Conduct and Academic Integrity

University guidelines for acceptable student conduct are very specific and will be strictly followed. Please read the guidelines (<http://www.catalog.hawaii.edu/about-uh/campus-policies1.htm>) and contact your instructors if you have any concerns.

- Cheating, of any form, will not be tolerated.
- Blind copying of intellectual material (text) from resources such as books, journals, and the internet is plagiarism and is illegal. Instead, you should write things in your own words with a proper reference to your source. If any homework exercises require you to look up an answer in something else than the class textbook, I will expect you to reference the source and write it in your own words. Any plagiarized work will receive "0" for the whole assignment and cannot be re-done or made up

### Disability Access

Please feel free to talk to your instructor anytime about your performance in the course or possible ways you can improve. Excellent references are available on the web and there are support texts in the library and classroom. I encourage you to organize study groups with your fellow students.

If you need disability-related accommodations, please notify the Office for Students with Disabilities (known as "Kokua"), located in the Queen Lili'uokalani Center for Student Services (Room 013).

(808) 956-7511 E-mail: [kokua@hawaii.edu](mailto:kokua@hawaii.edu) <http://www.hawaii.edu/kokua/>

### Title IX

The University of Hawai'i is committed to providing a learning, working and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect and is free of all

forms of sex discrimination and gender-based violence, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, gender-based harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. If you or someone you know is experiencing any of these, the University has staff and resources on your campus to support and assist you. Staff can also direct you to resources that are in the community. Here are some of your options:

As members of the University faculty, your instructors are required to immediately report any incident of potential sex discrimination or gender-based violence to the campus Title IX Coordinator. Although the Title IX Coordinator and your instructors cannot guarantee confidentiality, you will still have options about how your case will be handled. Our goal is to make sure you are aware of the range of options available to you and have access to the resources and support you need.

If you wish to remain ANONYMOUS, speak with someone CONFIDENTIALLY, or would like to receive information and support in a CONFIDENTIAL setting, use the confidential resources available here: <http://www.manoa.hawaii.edu/titleix/resources.html#confidential>

If you wish to directly REPORT an incident of sex discrimination or gender-based violence including sexual assault, sexual harassment, gender-based harassment, domestic violence, dating violence or stalking as well as receive information and support, contact: Dee Unwood Title IX Coordinator (808) 956-2299 [t9uhm@hawaii.edu](mailto:t9uhm@hawaii.edu).

### **Emergencies**

In the event of an emergency, this course syllabus may be modified and updated as needed. You will be notified of any changes that occur or modifications to the course schedule.

### Geology and You

**Earth is the product of billions of years during which geologic processes have carved the land, mixed the seas and air, and shifted the continents—and continue to do so.**

All life on Earth is the product of natural selection. Preserving biodiversity and natural habitats is critical to the continuation of Earth's natural resources. Natural resources are geologically renewed but humans use resources faster than they can be naturally renewed. Today humans use 1.5 Earths; that is, the resources we use in 1 year, will take 1.5 years to replace. In the U.S. we use 5 Earths. This is not sustainable.

To ensure that heavily used resources are still here for future generations means that we must ultimately find alternative resources, augment the rate of natural renewal, or reduce our rate of consumption (or all the above). This can lead to *sustainability*.

Regardless of your lifework, the science of geology can provide you with a level of awareness that will serve you in your career, your personal life, and your role as a community member of planet Earth. Here are 5 “Enduring Understandings” of geology that serve as semester-long learning goals.

**1. The study of Earth encompasses a vast range of time and space.** Geologists study nature from the length of the Solar System (trillions of kilometers) to the bonding of atoms (0.0000001 centimeters). We stretch our minds to understand the megascopic to the microscopic. Massive planets are constructed of the smallest minerals. Eons of time consist of long periods of slow and gradual change punctuated by short intervals of sudden violent convulsions in nature (i.e., earthquakes, floods, landslides). This immense span of time and space is one of the fundamental characteristics of the geological sciences.

**2. Plate tectonics controls the geology of Earth's surface.** The theory of plate tectonics has far reaching implications for the organization of the planet and its history. As plates move they perpetually change the way our planet looks. Mountain ranges rise when plates collide only to be worn by erosion down to the sea. Ocean basins open and close as continents rift and collide again. Nearly every aspect of geology is related to how plates interact and change through time.

**3. Geologic systems are the product of interactions between solid Earth, oceans, atmosphere, and living organisms.** Earth is organized into overlapping *geologic systems* that influence and react to each other. Geologic systems consist of interdependent materials (such as rocks, sediments, organic compounds, and water) that interact with natural physical and chemical processes. In a broad sense, these interactions occur because solar energy, geothermal energy, and gravitational energy are at work mixing the air, ocean, and solid Earth.

**4. Change is ever present and accumulates over vast time. Humans are powerful agents of change.** You live upon an ancient and restless landscape that is changing under your feet. All forms of life have evolved partially in response to geologic change over time. Today's Earth is the product of both gradual and instantaneous change accumulating over 4.6 billion years. Hence, our planet looked very different in the past and it will look different in the future.

**5. Rocks and sediments are pages in the book of Earth history.** Geologists read the story of Earth history in the crust. Earth history teaches us that Earth is very old, that evolution is responsible for life's incredible diversity, that ever-present change is a characteristic of geologic systems, and that geologic processes operate on an immense stage of time and space.