

Lecture: M,W,F 10:50–11:40 AM  
Labs: M 1:10–4:20 PM; W 1:10–4:20 PM

**Lecturer:** Dr. Stephen F. Wright

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Office Hours: WF ~9:30 to 10:30; F 1:30 to 3. I can also meet briefly after class or after many of our labs. If none of these times work for you, please see me and we'll arrange a time outside these office hours. I am generally out in the field with another class or working from home on most Tuesdays and Thursdays.

**Teaching Assistant:**

Max Landsman-Gerjoi; Office: Room 314 Delehanty; [mlandsm1@uvm.edu](mailto:mlandsm1@uvm.edu)

**Texts:** Schneiderman, J.S., ed., 2000, *The Earth Around Us: Maintaining a Livable Planet*  
Heath, R.C., 1983, *Basic Groundwater Hydrology*, U.S.G.S. Water-Supply Paper 2220

**Outside Readings:** Some of the reading material for this course will come from journal articles. These articles will either be distributed during class or posted on the class Blackboard site.

**Course Objectives:** My primary objective in this course is to introduce you to the geologic materials and processes that affect our lives and that are affected by things we do. Specifically, I want you to be able to understand how geologic processes work in our local environment, how those processes affect people, and how people affect those geologic processes. We will spend most of our time working with the materials that are relatively close to Earth's surface and the processes that operate over time scales that are geologically short: minutes, days, ... hundreds and thousands of years as opposed to millions or billions of years. For the most part, we will study common as opposed to exotic topics—topics with particular application to people living in the Northeast. My hope is that by the end of this class you will know enough to be able to understand the workings of, critically evaluate, and write about geologic aspects of many of the environmental problems you will encounter, whether it be your own septic system, your Town's landfill, or our national policy towards climate change.

During this class you will have the opportunity to learn many ancillary skills frequently used in geology. These include reading topographic and geologic maps, drawing interpretive cross-sections, describing various geologic materials, identifying common geologic landforms and understanding how they form, measuring and recording a variety of quantitative data, plotting and contouring these data, and carefully distinguishing your observations from your interpretations.

For those of you wishing to take additional geology courses, this course is equivalent to Geology 001 as a prerequisite that may be required for 100-level courses.

**Grading:** There will be two one-hour midterm exams, one final project, lab reports, written summaries of essays from your books, homework assignments, and several quizzes. Quizzes will be short (~5 min.) and will include material covered through the *previous* lecture. You can expect that there will be questions from the readings on these quizzes. *Your low quiz score will be dropped.* The labs are an integral part of this class and material presented during the lab *will appear* on quizzes and exams. I accept late homework, but you will lose credit.

Your final grade will be based on the above criteria weighted *approximately* as follows:

|               |     |          |     |
|---------------|-----|----------|-----|
| Midterms (2)  | 34% | Quizzes  | 8%  |
| Final Project | 17% | Homework | 14% |
| Lab work      | 27% |          |     |

## **LABS & FIELD TRIPS**

Geologic knowledge is primarily gathered from field investigations, oftentimes supplemented by analytical work in the laboratory. The field trips and labs will develop your skills of observation, description, and interpretation of geologic phenomena accessible in the nearby area.

***Dress appropriately!!***

***Be prepared for cold weather, wind, rain, poison ivy, and rough, slippery ground.***

Clothing I would suggest includes the following:

Sturdy boots or sneaks

A hat for sun and bugs if they bother you

A wool hat for cool days

Gloves

Shorts are OK. Some areas are brushy and if you don't like scratches wear long pants.

Raincoat/Windbreaker/Umbrella

Warm shirt/sweater/parka for cool days

*(Keep all of the above in a knapsack so you will always have it along.)*

Essential equipment for labs and field trips are:

Hard cover Notebook and/or a covered Clipboard for carrying maps and notes

Pencils and erasers (You will be making lots of sketches; pens are disappointingly permanent.)

A couple of colored pencils are very useful for coloring sketches.

Also bring:

Food (if you're inclined to get hungry)

Coffee (if you're inclined to get sleepy)

Water (if you're inclined to get thirsty)

A note about bathrooms:

Most of the field trips will be to places where there aren't any bathrooms. On the other hand, there will almost always be some woods nearby. As the scouts say: "Be prepared." Let someone know if you're going to slip away for a few minutes to be sure we won't forget you.

Lab Starting Time:

We will try to leave promptly. I don't mind waiting a few minutes, but it is trying on the rest of us to wait longer than that. Please show up on time. If you intend to buy a cup of coffee or a bagel, visit the bathroom, or lock up your bike, please give yourself enough time before the lab starts. If you show up late and we're gone, someone in the office or the building may be able to help you find us, but don't count on it.

**NOTE: It is not possible to make up field trips. Please make every effort to attend all field trips. If you miss more than 1 field trip, you will fail this class.**

### **Field Trip/Lab Reports**

Most field trips and labs require that you submit a completed lab report that may include measurements, descriptions, sketches, maps, cross-sections, written summaries, etc.

**Field trip and lab reports are due as follows: Monday lab turns reports in during class on Friday;**

**Wednesday lab turns in reports during class on Monday.** Late labs will be accepted under the following policy:

|             |         |               |         |
|-------------|---------|---------------|---------|
| 1 day late  | 10% off | 3 days late   | 30% off |
| 2 days late | 20% off | 4-7 days late | 40% off |

***Labs more than 1 week late will not be accepted for grading.***