GEOLOGY AND ASTRONOMY
(ESS)

Courses

ESS 101. Introduction to Geology. 3 Credits.
LEC (2), LAB (2)
The earth's composition and history; the processes that occur on and within the earth. Two
hours of lecture and two hours of lab.
Gen Ed Attribute: Science Distributive Requirement.
Typically offered in Fall, Spring & Summer.

ESS 102. Humans and the Environment. 3 Credits.
A study of the ability of humans to survive and maintain their life quality, considering the
limited resources and recycling capacity of planet Earth. Note: Students completing ESS 102
may not take SCB 102 or ENV 102 for credit.
Gen Ed Attribute: Interdisciplinary Requirement.
Typically offered in Fall, Spring & Summer.
Cross listed courses SCB 102, ENV 102, ESS 102.

ESS 111. Other Worlds, Other Stars. 3 Credits.
An introductory, general education course in astronomy. Topics will focus on the observable
changes in the night sky, the properties of light, the laws of motion, the formation and
composition of the solar system, extra solar planets, the properties of stars, stellar evolution
and stellar death.
Gen Ed Attribute: Science Distributive Requirement.
Typically offered in Fall & Spring.

ESS 112. Galaxies and Cosmology. 3 Credits.
An introductory general education course in astronomy. Topics will focus on the properties
of light and matter, the evolution of stars and galaxies, and the expansion, structure, history and
fate of the universe. Three hours of lecture.
Gen Ed Attribute: Science Distributive Requirement.
Typically offered in Fall & Spring.

ESS 125. Volcanoes. 3 Credits.
LEC (3), LAB (2)
Where do volcanoes occur and why? What happens when volcanoes erupt, and what controls
eruptions? What roles have volcanoes played in human history and human culture? How
do geologists study volcanoes in order to forecast eruptions and reduce the risks for human
populations? This course explores these questions using print, multimedia and Internet
sources. Students will learn how to interpret geological information in order to assess volcanic
hazards and forecast volcanic eruptions.
Typically offered in Fall & Spring.

ESS 130. Our Coastal Ocean. 3 Credits.
LEC (2), LAB (2)
This course examines the physical and biological processes at work in the coastal oceans. The
content will be discussed in the framework of regional examples.
Gen Ed Attribute: Science Distributive Requirement.
Typically offered in Fall & Spring.

ESS 170. Introduction to Our Atmosphere. 3 Credits.
Why is the sky blue? What will the weather be tomorrow? What makes tornadoes? How did
the ozone hole develop? What is the greenhouse effect? This class will use these questions and
others to investigate the basic physical processes that determine the weather and climate on
earth. A student who has successfully completed ESS 370 may not subsequently receive credit
for ESS 170.
Gen Ed Attribute: Science Distributive Requirement.
Distance education offering may be available.
Typically offered in Fall & Spring.

ESS 201. Field Geology. 3 Credits.
An introduction to the basic methods of geologic data collection in the field; analysis, and
presentation; literature research; and report writing. One weekend field trip is required.
Pre / Co requisites: ESS 201 requires a prerequisite of ESS 101.
Gen Ed Attribute: Writing Emphasis.
Typically offered in Fall & Spring.

ESS 204. Historical Geology. 3 Credits.
LEC (2), LAB (2)
An examination of how Earth has evolved over geologic time, from its origin as a tiny lifeless
planetesimal to its present state as a dynamic planetary system teaming with life. Rocks,
fossils, and other evidence of Earth’s past are analyzed and evaluated with knowledge of
modern physical and biological processes to infer Earth’s history, understand its present state,
and predict its future. Laboratory included. Recommended for students who have completed
ESS 101 or another introductory (100-level) science course.
Gen Ed Attribute: Writing Emphasis.
Typically offered in Fall & Spring.

ESS 301. Environmental Geochemistry. 3 Credits.
An introduction to principles and applications of geochemistry to geologic systems, including
surface and ground waters, soils, and rocks.
Pre / Co requisites: ESS 301 requires prerequisites of CHE 103 and ESS 101.
Typically offered in Spring.

ESS 302. Mineralogy. 3 Credits.
LEC (2), LAB (2)
In-depth survey of the formation, identification, classification, and uses of minerals. Principles
of symmetry, crystallography, crystal chemistry, and optical mineralogy. Laboratory and field
examination and analysis of minerals.
Pre / Co requisites: ESS 302 requires prerequisites of ESS 101 and ESS 204 and CHE 103.
Typically offered in Fall.

ESS 307. Geology of the Solar System. 3 Credits.
The geology, origin, evolution, and properties of planets, comets, asteroids, moons, and
meteorites.
Typically offered in Spring.

ESS 311. Introduction to Astronomy. 3 Credits.
LEC (0), LAB (0)
LAB, LEC An introduction to astronomy and astrophysics. Topics include celestial mechanics,
the properties of light, matter and energy, the formation of stars and planets, stellar evolution,
galaxies, and cosmology. Two hours of lecture and two hours of lab.
Pre / Co requisites: ESS 311 requires a prerequisite of MAT 115 or MAT 131 or MAT 143 or
MAT 161.
Typically offered in Fall.

ESS 321. Geometrics. 3 Credits.
Application of computational and statistical methods to geologic problems. Geologic
sampling, data comparisons in environmental, petrologic, paleontologic, and geochemical
problems.
Typically offered in Fall.

ESS 322. Gen'T Geol Field Studies of SE Pennsylvania. 3 Credits.
Occurrence, relationships, and geologic history of the rocks, minerals, and soils of this area,
studied at representative locations.
Pre / Co requisites: ESS 323 requires prerequisite of ESS 302.
Typically offered in Summer.

ESS 327. Electron Microscopy I. 3 Credits.
A one-semester lecture/laboratory course in theory operation and applications of electron
beam technology in scientific research. Students receive hands-on training and complete a
brief research project of their choosing.
Pre / Co requisites: ESS 327 requires prerequisite: 6 credits of science.
Typically offered in Fall & Spring.

ESS 330. Introduction to Oceanography. 3 Credits.
LEC (2), LAB (2)
A survey of our present knowledge of the waters and floors of the oceans.
Pre / Co requisites: ESS 330 requires prerequisite of ESS 101.
Typically offered in Fall & Spring.

ESS 331. Introduction to Paleontology. 3 Credits.
LEC (2), LAB (2)
Identification and study of common fossils in order to understand their life processes and
geologic significance.
Gen Ed Attribute: Writing Emphasis.
Typically offered in Spring.
ESS 332. Advanced Oceanography. 3 Credits.
An advanced course in oceanography covering marine resources, oceanographic literature, animal-sediment relationships, field techniques, estuaries, salt marshes, sea level changes, and pollution.

ESS 336. Environmental Geology. 3 Credits.
The application of geological information to human problems encountered in natural phenomena, such as flooding, earthquakes, coastal hazards, and man-made concerns, including waste disposal, land use, and global change.
Pre / Co requisites: ESS 336 requires prerequisite of ESS 101. Typically offered in Spring.

ESS 343. Geomorphology. 3 Credits.
Constructional and degradational forces that have shaped present landforms and are constantly reshaping and modifying landforms. Interpretation of geologic and topographic maps; field studies.
Pre / Co requisites: ESS 343 requires prerequisites of ESS 101 and ESS 204. Typically offered in Spring.

ESS 344. Geomorphology II. 3 Credits.
A continuation of the study of earth surface processes. Interpretation of topographic maps and air photos.
Pre / Co requisites: ESS 344 requires a prerequisite of ESS 343.

ESS 347. Earth & Space Science Seminar. 1 Credit.
One credit weekly seminar featuring guest lectures by Geoscience professionals, prominent scientists, faculty and students. Students will read professional literature, attend and participate in the lecture, and write a summary and/or analysis of each seminar. Typically offered in Fall. Repeatable for Credit.

ESS 348. International Geology Field Studies. 3 Credits.
Field investigations of selected country’s physical environments focusing on geology and natural resources in relationship to cultural traditions, lifestyle and sustainability. Case studies of human adaptation to local and global environmental challenges will be considered. Two hours of lecture and two hours of lab.
Pre / Co requisites: ESS 348 requires prerequisite ESS 101 or ESS 102 or permission of instructor. Repeatable for Credit.

ESS 355. Intermediate Astronomy. 3 Credits.
LEC (2), LAB (2)
An analytical and qualitative analysis of selected astronomical phenomena. Topics include telescope optics (including photographic and photoelectric attachments), lunar and planetary orbits, stellar motions and magnitudes, galactic classifications, and distances. Two hours of lecture and two hours of lab.
Pre / Co requisites: ESS 355 requires prerequisite of ESS 111.

ESS 362. History of Astronomy. 3 Credits.
Development of astronomical theories from the ancient Greeks until the 20th century.
Pre / Co requisites: ESS 362 requires prerequisite of ESS 111.

ESS 370. Introduction to Meteorology. 3 Credits.
LEC (2), LAB (2)
A study of the principles governing the earth’s atmosphere and how these principles determine weather conditions.
Pre / Co requisites: ESS 370 requires a prerequisite of MAT 115 or MAT 143 or MAT 131 or MAT 161. Typically offered in Fall.

ESS 371. Advanced Meteorology. 3 Credits.
A continuation of the study of the principles governing the earth’s atmosphere and how these principles determine weather conditions.

ESS 394. Geology of Northwestern National Parks. 4 Credits.
This course includes a field trip to the national parks in South Dakota, Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, northern Utah, and Colorado. The purpose of the course is to look at the geologic features of the national parks in these states and to develop an appreciation of the geology and geologic history of the region.
Consent: Permission of the Department required to add.

ESS 395. Geology of Southwestern National Parks. 4 Credits.
The course includes a field trip to the national parks in New Mexico, Arizona, southern Utah, and Colorado to look at the geologic features of these parks and to develop an appreciation of the geology and geologic history of the region.
Consent: Permission of the Department required to add.

ESS 405. Igneous and Metamorphic Petrology. 3 Credits.
LEC (2), LAB (2)
Theories of the formation of igneous and metamorphic rocks based on field occurrence, physical properties, geochemistry, thermodynamics, and petrography. Classification and identification of rocks. Laboratory and field examination of rocks.
Pre / Co requisites: ESS 405 requires prerequisites of ESS 201 and ESS 302. Typically offered in Spring.

ESS 420. Structural Geology. 3 Credits.
LEC (2), LAB (2)
Determination of the sequential development and the forces involved in the various structural features of the earth.
Pre / Co requisites: ESS 420 requires prerequisites of ESS 201 and ESS 302. Typically offered in Spring.

ESS 439. Hydrogeology. 3 Credits.
This applied course covers groundwater flow, well hydraulics, water resources, contaminant transport, and groundwater remediation. Familiarity with calculus is recommended.
Pre / Co requisites: ESS 439 requires prerequisite of ESS 301. Typically offered in Spring.

ESS 442. Geophysics. 3 Credits.
Gravitational, magnetic, seismic (refraction and reflection), and electrical properties of rocks and minerals in the earth. Physical principles of the earth; geophysics in relation to economic deposits.
Pre / Co requisites: ESS 442 requires prerequisites of PHY 140 or PHY 180 and MAT 162.

ESS 447. Earth and Space Science Seminar. 1 Credit.
A one credit weekly seminar featuring guest lectures by Geoscience professionals, prominent scientists, faculty and students. Each week students will read professional literature, attend and participate in the lecture, and write a summary and/or analysis of each seminar. Typically offered in Fall. Repeatable for Credit.

ESS 450. Sedimentation & Stratigraphy. 3 Credits.
LEC (2), LAB (2)
LAB, LEC Class, laboratory, and field studies of sediments, sedimentary rocks, depositional processes and environments, and diagenesis. Description, mapping, and correlation of strata to infer temporal-spatial relationships, locate resources, and interpret Earth history.
Pre / Co requisites: ESS 450 requires prerequisites: ESS 301, 302, 331 and 343. Typically offered in Fall.

ESS 460. Internship. 1-18 Credits.
Contact department for more information about this course. Repeatable for Credit.

ESS 480. Special Problems. 1-3 Credits.
Reports on special topics and current developments in the earth and space sciences. Repeatable for Credit.

ESS 490. Fundamentals of Soils. 3 Credits.
LEC (2), LAB (2)
Soil properties, classification, and genesis from geologic, agricultural, and engineering perspectives. Topics include pedology, soil physics, geotechnical engineering, erosion, septic systems, soil contamination, and remediation.
Pre / Co requisites: ESS 490 requires prerequisite of ESS 101. Typically offered in Fall.

ESS 491. Independent Studies. 1-3 Credits.
Repeatable for Credit.
Contact department for more information about this course.

ESS 492. Internship. 1-18 Credits.
Contact department for more information about this course. Repeatable for Credit.

ESS 497. Earth Science Seminar. 1 Credit.
A one credit weekly seminar featuring guest lectures by Geoscience professionals, prominent scientists, faculty and students. Each week students will read professional literature, attend and participate in the lecture, and write a summary and/or analysis of each seminar. Typically offered in Fall. Repeatable for Credit.

ESS 499. Independent Studies. 1-3 Credits.
Contact department for more information about this course. Repeatable for Credit.