

GEOL 1505H - Honors Physical Geology

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section 01, CRN 40096,

Credit hours: 4

Instructor

Dr. Beej Spieler

Public Instructor Information

Instructor Title: Lecturer

Instructor Professional Qualifications:

Ph. D., Physical Geography, Kent State University - 2014

Master's of Science, Structural Geology, Kent State University - 2005

Bachelor's of Science, Earth Science Education, Youngstown State University - 2002

Instructor Office Location: Moser 2075

Instructor Office Phone: 330-941-2293

Course Description

1505H. Honors Physical Geology. Concepts of the earth as a dynamic planet, investigated through a variety of lectures, text and journal readings, and independent library-research assignments. Prereq.: Eligibility for the Honors Program or consent of instructor. 3 s.h.

Course Readings

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Required	Essentials of Geology	Marshak	9780393644456

The course readings are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, research developments, current events, and/or to ensure better learning.

Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Week of	Reading(s)	Proposed Topic	Due/To Prepare for Class
8/24	Ch. 1	M - Introduction: What is Geology M - Classmate Scavenger Hunt W - Movie: Planet of Plates F - Lab: Intro to Plate Tectonics	
8/31	Ch. 2: The Way the Earth Works	M/W - Plate Tectonics F - Lab - Plate Tectonics	
9/7	MONDAY NO CLASS, LABOR DAY Ch. 3 Minerals	W - Minerals F - Mineral Museum Scavenger Hunt F - Lab: Mineral ID	Mineral Selfie due Monday Sept. 14
9/14	Ch. 4 Igneous Rocks Ch. 5 The Wrath of Volcan	M - Igneous Rocks W - Volcanoes F - Lab - Dante's Peak	List and describe 5 volcanic hazards; due Wednesday 9/21
9/21	Ch. 5 continued	M - Volcanoes continued W - Exam 1 Review F - Exam 1 (Ch. 2, 3, 4, 5)	
9/28	Ch. 6 Pages of the Past	M - Exam remediation W - Sedimentary Rocks F - Lab - Intro to Rocks	

10/5	Ch. 7 Metamorphism	M/W - Metamorphism: A Process of Change F - Lab - Sedimentary rocks	Pet Rocks - Due Oct 14 on Blackboard
10/12	Ch. 8 Earthquakes Ch. 9 - Geologic Structures and Mountain Building	M - Intro video to earthquakes; lecture W - Geologic Structures and structure diagrams F - Lab - Ig/Met Rocks	List and describe 5 earthquake hazards; due Oct. 16 on Blackboard Dr. Seuss topics and partners due Oct. 19 via email: bjspieler@ysu.edu
10/19	Ch. 10 How old is old?	M - Geologic Time W - Geologic Time cont; in class relative dating diagrams F - Lab - Geologic Time	Minor Canyon diagrams due Oct. 23
10/26		M - Review for exam W - Exam 2 (Ch. 6, 7, 8, 9, 10) F - Exam remediation F - Lab - Topographic maps	
11/2	Ch. 13 Unsafe Ground Ch. 14 Streams	M - Mass wasting; landslides video W - Streams and flooding F - Podcast work day F - Lab - Stream features in Google Earth	
11/9		M/W - Agents of Erosion Podcast Presentations F - Lab - Mill Creek Park Virtual Field Trip	
11/16	Ch. 18 - Glaciers	M - Dr. Seuss Project work day W - Glaciers and Ice Ages F - Lab - Ohio Glaciation	
11/23		M - Glaciers continued WED/FRI NO CLASS THANKSGIVING BREAK	
11/30		M/W/F DR. SEUSS PRESENTATIONS F - Lab - Exam review	
12/7		LAB 3 - FINAL EXAM - MONDAY DEC. 7 10:30-12:30	

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