

GEOS 12:130 – Sedimentary Geology

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Textbooks

On reserve in library: *Sedimentology and Stratigraphy* by Gary Nichols (2009)

On reserve in library and recommended purchase: *Sedimentary Geology* by Prothero and Schwab (2004)

Office Hours

Mondays 12:30-3:30 or by appointment. The best way to set up a time to meet is by talking with me before or after class, or by sending me an email. I check my email several times a day during the week, but may or may not check email on the weekends. In addition, always feel free to stop by if you have questions.

Goals of the course

Sedimentology is the study of the processes of formation, transport, and deposition of material that accumulates as sediment in continental and marine environments and eventually forms sedimentary rocks. Stratigraphy is the study of rocks to determine the order and timing of events in Earth history: it provides the timeframe that allows us to interpret sedimentary rocks in terms of dynamic evolving environments. The stratigraphic record of sedimentary rocks is the fundamental database for understanding the evolution of life, plate tectonics through time, and global climate change.

- excerpt from Nichols (2009)

The primary goals of this course are to provide the student with the knowledge and tools necessary to:

- Interpret the processes that transported and deposited sedimentary rocks
- Determine the age and physical extent of sedimentary deposits
- Correlate and make predictions between outcrops or subsurface data
- Infer provenance characteristics, including source rock lithology and location (proximal or distal), and topographic relief
- Create depositional paleoenvironmental and paleogeography maps
- Infer relative uplift and subsidence (destruction or creation of accommodation)
- Infer potential petroleum or groundwater system characteristics

Course Structure and Policies

Attendance

Attendance is strongly encouraged and is part of the professionalism grade. Regardless of class attendance, however, homework, lab reports, and all other assignments are due on the assigned date.

Reading Assignments

Required readings from peer-reviewed publications may be assigned throughout the semester. Basic concepts from the required readings will be reviewed in class, but more advanced topics will be covered in the readings and may appear on exams.

Quizzes

Quizzes will be posted on the ICON website and must be completed by the next lecture period. Quizzes will be used as a gauge for class comprehension and knowledge retention, but they will not be graded. Students must only complete the quizzes by the assigned time to receive full credit.

Exams

Exams include material covered in lectures, readings, and laboratory assignments. The first two exams are not cumulative and will include material covered since the last exam. The final exam date is determined by the registrar and cannot be rescheduled. The final exam is cumulative. Tentative exam dates are:

Exam 1	September 17
Exam 2	October 31

Laboratory Assignments

Material will be covered in lab that is not discussed in lecture. Lab assignments are due the Friday after they are assigned by 5 pm and may be turned in to your TA's mailbox in TH 121. You are encouraged to work together on assignments and to share thoughts, ideas, and criticisms. However, lab assignments are to be completed individually and should express your own understanding of the material.

Make-Up Exams/Labs

Exams and labs must be completed on the scheduled date. The *only* exceptions to this policy are when students have an authorized medical excuse or if students have cleared their absence for an officially sanctioned reason with me in advance of the missed class.

Grading Scheme

Two hourly exams	20%
Fourteen lab reports	30%
Quizzes	10%
Final exam	30%
Professionalism	10%

Professionalism

The professionalism grade is based on your attendance, participation during in-class discussions and exercises, participation during labs, and general enthusiasm. Frequent absences, inattentiveness during class, and failure to engage in discussions will have a negative impact on your professionalism grade.

UI and CLAS Policy and Procedures

Administrative Home

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is the administrative home of this course and governs matters such as the add/drop deadlines, the second-grade-only option, and other related issues. Different colleges may have different policies. Questions may be addressed to 120 Schaeffer Hall, or see the CLAS Academic Policies Handbook at <http://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook>.

Electronic Communication

University policy specifies that students are responsible for all official correspondences sent to their University of Iowa e-mail address (@uiowa.edu). Faculty and students should use this account for correspondences. (Operations Manual, III.15.2. k.11.)

Accommodations for Disabilities

A student seeking academic accommodations should first register with Student Disability Services and then meet privately with the course instructor to make particular arrangements. See www.uiowa.edu/~sds/ for more information.

Academic Honesty

All CLAS students have, in essence, agreed to the College's Code of Academic Honesty: "I pledge to do my own academic work and to excel to the best of my abilities, upholding the IOWA Challenge. I promise not to lie about my academic work, to cheat, or to steal the words or ideas of others; nor will I help fellow students to violate the Code of Academic Honesty." Any student committing academic misconduct is reported to the College and placed on disciplinary probation or may be suspended or expelled (CLAS Academic Policies Handbook).

CLAS Final Examination Policies

The final examination schedule for each class is announced around the fifth week of the semester by the Registrar. Final exams are offered only during the official final examination period. No exams of any kind are allowed during the last week of classes. All students should plan on being at the UI through the final examination period. Once the Registrar has announced the dates and times of each final exam, the complete schedule will be published on the Registrar's web site.

Making a Suggestion or a Complaint

Students with a suggestion or complaint should first visit the instructor, then the course supervisor, and then the departmental DEO. Complaints must be made within six months of the incident (CLAS Student Academic Handbook.)

Understanding Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment subverts the mission of the University and threatens the well-being of students, faculty, and staff. All members of the UI community have a responsibility to uphold this mission and to contribute to a safe environment that enhances learning. Incidents of sexual harassment should be reported immediately. See the UI Comprehensive Guide on Sexual Harassment for assistance, definitions, and the full University policy.

Reacting Safely to Severe Weather

In severe weather, class members should seek appropriate shelter immediately, leaving the classroom if necessary. The class will continue if possible when the event is over. For more information on Hawk Alert and the siren warning system, visit the Public Safety web site.

Rights and responsibilities in the classroom

The College's statement on student rights and responsibilities can be found at: <http://www.clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook/x/>.