

<b>COURSE TITLE BLACKBOARD SITE</b>	GLG6143 Geosphere Fall 2011 – <a href="http://my.ltu.edu">http://my.ltu.edu</a> and select CRN 1810
<b>INSTRUCTOR</b>	Marilyn Velinsky Rands Associate Professor of Physics, Lawrence Technological University Contact Information: <a href="mailto:mrand@ltu.edu">mrand@ltu.edu</a> Business phone: (248) 204-3546 and no cell phone Office hours by appointment
<b>SCHEDULE</b>	September 13 – December 13, 2011  Refer to <a href="http://www.ltu.edu/registrars_office/calendar_final_exam.index.asp">http://www.ltu.edu/registrars_office/calendar_final_exam.index.asp</a> for the last date to withdraw and other important registration related information.
<b>LEVEL/ HOURS PREREQUISITE</b>	Graduate MSE Degree / 3 credit hours Admission /: Enrollment in any graduate program Prerequisite requirements: none
<b>REQUIRED TEXT</b>  (See Blackboard for additional resources)	<b>Essentials of Geology 11<sup>th</sup> ed.</b> Lutgens, Tarbuck, Tasa.(ISBN: 978-0-321-71472-5) Access to mygeoscienceplace.com is necessary. If you purchase the text new, access is included. If you buy an ebook, the Pearson ebook with the mygeoscienceplace (ISBN-10: 0321763378) is available at <a href="http://www.mypearsonstore.com/index.asp">http://www.mypearsonstore.com/index.asp</a> . If you buy the CourseSmart ebook, then you will have to purchase access to mygeoscienceplace as well.  Available for online purchase through LTU Bookstore at: <a href="http://lawrence-tech1.bkstore.com/bkstore/TextbookSelection.do?st=489">http://lawrence-tech1.bkstore.com/bkstore/TextbookSelection.do?st=489</a>
<b>ADDITIONAL RESOURCES</b>	LTU Online student resources: <a href="http://www.ltu.edu/ltuonline/">http://www.ltu.edu/ltuonline/</a> You will receive an Geosphere kit before the second week of class. Certain items need to be returned to LTU.
<b>TECHNICAL SUPPORT</b>	Technical support for using Blackboard is provided by the Helpdesk, 248.204.2330 or <a href="mailto:helpdesk@ltu.edu">helpdesk@ltu.edu</a> . Send the Help Desk a form detailing any issues by clicking here <a href="http://tinyurl.com/3yqrvne">http://tinyurl.com/3yqrvne</a> .

### COURSE SCHEDULE FOR GEOSPHERE COURSE

This fully online course begins with an online course orientation from E-Learning to familiarize yourself with the online learning environment. Each week starts on a Tuesday and ends on a Monday.

Dates	Modules	Topics / Readings	Assignments Due
Prior to Semester Start	Module 0	Online Learning Orientation Course	
Week of Sept. 13 – 18	Module 1 Course Orientation Introduction to topographic maps (note: more than one module may be scheduled in a week)	Overview of textbook and mygeoscienceplace.com Appendix B –Topographic Maps (note: more than chapter may be scheduled in a module)	Course orientation Student introductions Bb Discussion Board
Week of Sep 19 – Sep 25	Module 2	Chapter 1 – Introduction to Geology	Bb Discussion Board Forums Other assignment(s) due
Week of Sep 26 – Oct 2	Module 3	Chapter 2 – Minerals	Bb Discussion Board Other assignment(s) due
Week of Oct 3 – Oct 9	Module 4	Chapter 2 – Mineral Identification	Bb Discussion Board Other assignment(s) due
Week of Oct 10 – Oct 16	Module 5	Chapter 3 –Igneous Rocks	Bb Discussion Board Other assignment(s) due
Week of Oct 17 – Oct 23	Module 6	Chapter 4 –Volcanoes	Bb Discussion Board Other assignment(s) due Final date to report presentation topic
Week of Oct 24 – Oct 30	Module 7	Chapter 5 – Weathering and Soils	Bb Discussion Board Other assignment(s) due Test 1
Week of Oct 31 – Nov 6	Module 8	Chapter – Sedimentary Rocks	Bb Discussion Board Other assignment(s) due
Week of Nov 7 – Nov 13	Module 9	Chapter 8 – Metamorphic Rocks	Bb Discussion Board Other assignment(s) due
Week of Nov 14 – Nov 20	Module 10	Water Cycle in the Geosphere Chapter 9 – Running Water Chapter 10 – Ground Water	Bb Discussion Board Other assignment(s) due

Dates	Modules	Topics / Readings	Assignments Due
Week of Nov 21 – Nov 27 <b>Light Week – Thanksgiving Week</b>	Module 11	Power Point Presentation and review Chapter 11 - <b>Glaciers</b>	<b>Bb Discussion Board</b> <b>Presentation due</b> <b>Other assignment(s) due</b>
Week of Nov 28 – Dec 4	Module 12	Chapter 14 – <b>Earthquakes</b>	<b>Bb Discussion Board</b> <b>Other assignment(s) due</b>
Week of Dec 5 – Dec 13	Module 13	Chapter 12 – <b>Geological Timeline</b>	<b>Bb Discussion Board</b> <b>Other assignment(s) due</b> <b>Test 2</b>

### STUDENT EVALUATION

Letter grades are awarded based on the total number of points achieved. Points are deducted for late assignments.

EXAMPLES:

Assignments	Percentage
<b>Activities</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Power Point Presentation and Commentary</b>	<b>15</b>
Exams	<b>30</b>
Reflective Journals	<b>5</b>
Online Participation	<b>15</b>
Chapter Quizzes	<b>20</b>
Total Percentage	<b>100</b>

Total Percentage	Letter Grade
94 and above	A
90 – 93	A-
87 – 89	B+
83 – 86	B
80 – 82	B-
77 – 79	C+
73 – 76	C
70 – 72	C-
69 and below	F

*Note: Grades lower than a "B" fall below the LTU graduate standard*

### EDUCATIONAL GOALS

The goal of this course is to introduce basic ideas about the geology of the earth. All topics are placed in a societal context. This is an introductory geology course, but taught with graduate level expectations.

Topics will be explored via hands-on investigations, presentations, discussions, and journaling. Content-specific learning will be assessed.

Topics emphasize the Michigan High School Content Expectations. Lessons will be structured to address the following: identifying, using, inquiring and reflecting on science principles. For more information on MHSCE go to the website: [http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Essential\\_Science\\_204486\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Essential_Science_204486_7.pdf)

This course is not designed to prepare you for the DX-DI certification test. Preparation and advance knowledge of all test requirements are your sole responsibility. However, the instructor (and the MSE program director) will be a resource for you to use and will provide suggestions and assistance to you as you begin your preparations. Make arrangements outside of class to discuss your strategy for meeting all testing requirements. Of course, Penelope Morris (e-mail: "pmorris@ltu.edu" and telephone: 248.204.3533) will be available to assist you in scheduling the test and contacting Aquinas College or U of D Mercy to ask them to recommend you for certification upon successful completion of the test.

### DI TEST CERTIFICATION WEBSITES

DI Elementary [http://www.mttc.nesinc.com/PDFs/MI\\_field093\\_SG.pdf](http://www.mttc.nesinc.com/PDFs/MI_field093_SG.pdf)

DI Secondary [http://www.mttc.nesinc.com/PDFs/MI\\_field094\\_SG.pdf](http://www.mttc.nesinc.com/PDFs/MI_field094_SG.pdf)

### STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES / OUTCOMES

*These learning objectives are posted in a separate document in Blackboard. These objectives will be evaluated through assignments, quizzes, examinations, and other methods throughout the course.*

### PREREQUISITE SKILLS

*Because this is an introductory course, there are no prerequisite skills other than those associated with Blackboard, Microsoft word and power point. You must also have access to an internet connection so that you can complete the assignments at [mygeoscienceplace.com](http://mygeoscienceplace.com) and [explorelarning.com](http://explorelarning.com).*

### INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND COURSE ORGANIZATION

**Blackboard Learning Environment** – Blackboard at my.ltu.edu contains the syllabus, all assignments, streaming videos, narrated PowerPoint mini-lectures in Wimba, You will submit many assignments via Blackboard, and are expected to participate regularly in discussion topics. Please take time to familiarize yourself with the organization of the Blackboard site. You will want to check the site frequently for announcements reminding you of new resources and upcoming assignments.

**Student/Instructor Conversations** – Students keep in touch with the instructor via e-mail messages.

**Required Reading** – Textbook chapters should be read according to the schedule outlined in the syllabus. Certain topics from the chapters may be discussed online.

**Publisher Web Site** – A publisher web site at <http://www.mygeoscienceplace.com> includes instructional materials, PowerPoint slides, application simulations, and chapter quizzes. You should make use of as many of these resources as you need to be successful.

**Assignments:** **1. Reading Assignments from the text.** The text is very easily read, and contains many exceptional photo. It is not expected that you remember everything as some of the information is an expansion of the basic concepts. For example, Chapter 2 contain much information about chemical structure, you do not need to learn much of the chemistry unless that is your field of interest. If you know some general basic information that will be sufficient for this course

**2. Chapter Tutorials in mygeoscienceplace.com.** There are extremely helpful as they contain simulations and self-assessments.

**3. Chapter Quizzes in mygeoscienceplace.com.** There is a chapter quiz for each chapter tutorial. They are very helpful self-assessments and also give me some idea of your progress in this course. The quizzes in the application all have varying point values, but the percentage score will be used in final grade calculations.

**4. Exams.** There are two examinations given online. One given during week 7 and the

other during week 13. The exams will be posted in Blackboard and will be timed exercises. Your will need to complete the exam within two (2) hours. You may not leave the exam and return at a later time. Be sure that you set aside a dedicated time to take the exams.

**5. Hands-on Activities.** There will be approximately 15 hands-on activities for you to complete during this course. One activity will be an evaluation of a website. Specialized materials necessary for completing the activities will be available in your kit. However, you must supply some common materials that are necessary for their completion.

**6. Reflective Journals.** After you have completed all the weekly requirements, you will reflect on your weekly successes or non-successes in a journal.

**7. Power Point Presentation and Commentary.** You will prepare a power point presentation on a geological topic of interest to you. You may assume that you are preparing it for your own students, or you may prepare it for your fellow students. After the power point presentations are posted you will prepare a thoughtful commentary on your fellow student's work.

## CLASS POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS

*I plan to offer you a valuable learning experience, and expect us to work together to achieve this goal. Here are some general expectations regarding this course:*

Each student has a LTU email account. If you wish to use a different email address for this course, please **change your email address in Blackboard under "Blackboard Tools", then "Personal Information"** and send an email to me so I can store your address in my email directory.

Readings, discussion participation, and written assignments must be completed according to the class schedule. It is important to contact the instructor as needed to discuss personal needs regarding course requirements and assignments. **No late assignments will be accepted.**

It is essential that all students actively contribute to the course objectives through their experiences and working knowledge.

All assignments must be submitted on schedule, via Blackboard, and using Microsoft Office compatible software. If you need to submit an assignment via email, contact the instructor in advance. No late assignments will be accepted.

Assignments must be completed to an adequate standard to obtain a passing grade. Requirements for each assignment are detailed when assigned.

Be prepared to log into Blackboard at least once each day. That may not always be possible, but you must contribute to the class discussion on Blackboard in a thoughtful manner at least 5 times each week. Please focus your online correspondence within the appropriate Blackboard discussion forums so that you and your colleagues can learn from each other.

At midterm and at the end of the course, you will be invited to participate in a University evaluation of this course. Your feedback is important to the University, to LTU Online, and to me as an instructor, and I encourage you to participate in the evaluation process.

It is important for you as students to know what to expect from me as your instructor:

- I will be available to you via e-mail, and will promptly reply to your messages within 24 hours during the week and 48 hours on the weekend.
- I will be available to you for face-to-face appointments as requested.
- I will maintain the Blackboard web site with current materials, and will resolve any content-related problems promptly as they are reported to me.

- I will send out a weekly e-mail update to all class members to guide upcoming work and remind you of assignment due dates.
- I will return all assignments to you promptly, and where appropriate will include individualized comments and suggestions.
- I will hold our personal written or verbal communications in confidence. I will not post any of your assignments for viewing by the class without requesting your approval in advance.
- I will treat all members of the class fairly, and will do my best to accommodate individual learning styles and special needs.
- If any of these points need clarification, or when special circumstances arise that require my assistance, please contact me so that we can discuss the matter personally.

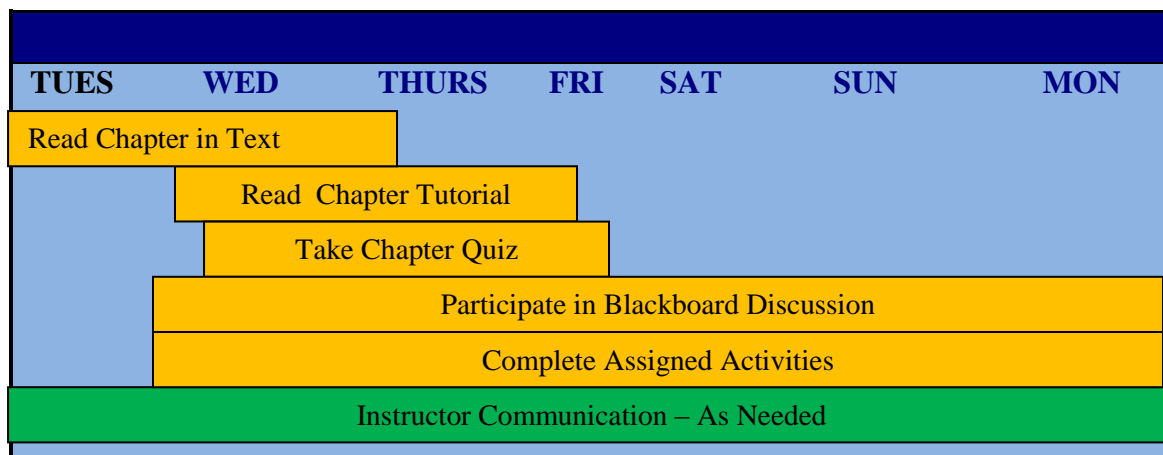
### PRACTICAL GUIDELINES FOR CLASS LOAD EXPECTATIONS

A three-credit graduate course generally requires at least nine hours per week of time commitment. Here are some practical guidelines to help schedule your time commitments for this online course:

- A 1-week semester would require at least 126 hours of time commitment to successfully complete all readings, activities, assignments, and texts as described in this syllabus.
- You should reserve at least 6 hours per week to read the required textbook chapters and online tutorial in mygeoscienceplace.com, participate in online discussions, review presentation materials, and work through online chapter quizzes. This effort will total at least 84 hours over the course of the semester.
- You should organize your remaining time to roughly correspond with the point value of each major assignment. This means that you should plan to spend at least:
  - 8-9 hours preparing your power point presentation;
  - 20-30 hours completing the assigned activities;
  - 4-5 hours completing your reflective journal.
  - 4-5 hours preparing for the exams.

These guidelines may not reflect the actual amount of outside time that you – as a unique individual with your own learning style – will need to complete the course requirements. The number of hours each week will vary based on assignment due dates, so please plan ahead to insure that you schedule your academic, work, and personal time effectively. The following graphic can be used to guide you in planning your weekly course work to remain on schedule:

### ASSIGNMENT DETAILS



Course assignments and evaluation criteria are detailed below. Please review these requirements carefully. See the section Academic Resources / Assessment Guidelines for information about assessment of presentations.

All assignments are submitted using the Blackboard “Assignments” or “SafeAssign” function. Some assignments may also be posted to the Blackboard Discussion Forum for student comments.

### **SYLLABUS ADDENDA**

Please see the LTU Online “Current Students” web site <http://www.ltu.edu/ltuonline/> for comprehensive information about Lawrence Tech’s academic services, library services, student services, and academic integrity standards. The content of this web site is explicitly included as syllabus requirements.

The LTU Online “Current Students” web site also includes grading rubrics used by your instructor to evaluate written assignments, discussion forum participation, and group assignments. Please note that the SafeAssign anti-plagiarism product will be used for written assignments submitted for this course. Please see the instructions included on the LTU Online web site regarding the use of the SafeAssign product.

#### **Leadership Transcripts**

The leadership transcript enables students to track co-curricular activities that are undertaken above and beyond the requirements of the LTU curriculum. The leadership transcript serves students by enhancing the leadership portfolio; providing the opportunity for a transcript of distinction; enhancing their resumes; and assisting in articulating leadership experience. It can be accessed by logging on to Banner Web and clicking the Student and Financial Aid tab. Leadership Activities is located at the bottom of the list.