EAS 3600/8803: Geologic History
Fall 2026

Instructor: Dr. Samantha Wilson (she/her)
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Course Info:

Course credits: 3 credit hours

Course Description: Examine principal methodologies utilized by geologists to interpret geologic time, in order to analyze the chronological sequence and interrelationships of major geological events in Earth's history

Course Objectives:

1. Explain the fundamental principles of geologic time (e.g., relative dating, superposition, faunal succession) and how they are applied to interpret Earth's history.
2. Analyze the interrelationships among major geologic events, such as tectonic activity, climate change, and biological evolution.
3. Construct and interpret geologic time scales, integrating evidence from multiple sources.
4. Synthesize multiple lines of geologic evidence to develop coherent interpretations of Earth's past environments and processes.
5. Communicate geologic interpretations effectively, using appropriate scientific terminology, visual representations, and written explanations.

Recommended Text (not required): Prothero, D.R., & Dott Jr., R.H., 2004, Evolution of the Earth (7th edition): McGraw Hill.

Canvas: This course will make use of canvas to send announcements, post lectures, and post assignments.

Academic Integrity:

Georgia Tech aims to cultivate a community based on trust, academic integrity, and honor. Students are expected to act according to the highest ethical standards. Review Georgia Tech's Honor Code and the student Code of Conduct. Any student suspected of cheating or plagiarism on a quiz, exam, or assignment will be reported to the Office of Student Integrity, who will investigate the incident and identify the appropriate penalty for violations.

"For any questions involving these or any other Academic Honor Code issues, please consult me, my teaching assistants, or www.honor.gatech.edu."

Student-Faculty Expectations Agreement:

At Georgia Tech, we believe that it is important to strive for an atmosphere of mutual respect, acknowledgement, and responsibility between faculty members and the student body. The Student-Faculty Expectations articulate some basic expectations that you can have of me and that I have of you. In the end, simple respect for knowledge, hard work, and cordial interactions will help build the environment we seek. Therefore, I encourage you to remain committed to the ideals of Georgia Tech while in this class.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:
If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, contact the Office of Disability Services (404-894-2563) as soon as possible to make an appointment to discuss your special needs and to obtain an accommodations letter. Please also e-mail me as soon as possible in order to set up a time to discuss your learning needs.

Lecture Procedures & Policies:

Attendance: It is strongly recommended that you attend all lectures. If you must miss a lecture, it is your responsibility to complete any assignments and learn the material you missed by carefully reviewing the lectures and emailing me and/or lecture TA.

Make-Up Policy: Communication is key. If you anticipate that you will miss class or an assignment deadline, then you must either provide a doctor's note or notify the instructors at least a week prior to the due date with a valid reason for your absence. In order for absences due to medical and family emergencies to be excused, appropriate documentation must be submitted to the Dean of Students. Without prior approval or a doctor's note, late assignments (including exams and class participation activities) will not be accepted and be assigned a 0.

Canvas & Online Chat: Please be considerate to all members in our virtual class chat, Q&A, and Canvas messaging.

Collaboration & Group Work: Collaboration is encouraged to discuss assignments, but answers on all assignments must be your own. If someone reads the syllabus and tells me during the first two weeks of class that geology rocks then one in-class participation activity will dropped (this does not include HW assignments). Cheating and/or plagiarism on any assignment will result in a 0 for that assignment.

Grading: You can check your current grades at any time on Canvas > Grades.

Class Participation	Assignments will be announced during lectures & on Canvas (*graduate students will have an additional short presentation*)	40%
Final Project	Final project details will be discussed later	30%
Final Presentation	Final presentation details will be discussed later	20%
Geologic Time Scale Quiz	At the end of the semester you will need to completely fill in the geologic time scale	10%
	Course total	100%

Any cheating will receive a 0 for that assignment and a report will be sent to The Office of Student Integrity for Academic Misconduct.

Class Participation: We will have a variety of in class and online homework type of activities that we will assign throughout the course. Length and time allotted to complete such assignments will vary and be more specifically discussed during lecture and announced on Canvas.

> ***Graduate Student "Brief History of a US National Park":** For this assignment you need to Create a 7-8 minute presentation on your assigned park that you will present to the course. Presentation must focus on the geologic development and historical side to the park.*

Final Project: Project details will be provided at a later time.

Final Presentation: There will be a final oral presentation on an assigned topic during the assigned final time. Presentation details will be provided at a later time.

Grade	Percentage
A	90.0 – 100
B	80.0 – 89.9
C	70.0 – 79.9
D	65.0 – 69.9
F	<65.0

Grading Scale: For P/F grading, passing is a 70.0 or higher.

Re-grades: Any assignment may be submitted for re- grading because of an error up to one week after the assignment grade is released. Although I am always happy to discuss your work with you at anytime, once that initial week has passed, there will be no changes made in grades.

Grade Curve: This class does not offer a curve.

Extra Credit: To be fair to all students, no extra credit will be offered.