

## GEOLOGY LAB (GEOL 0055) Fall 2025

Tuesdays 1:00-2:50 and Thursdays 1:00-1:50 **or**  
Tuesdays 3:00-4:50 pm and Thursdays 3:00-3:50 pm  
Classroom = Thaw 203

This class provides a range of hands-on, practical skills that are useful to future geologists, environmentalists, and anyone who just likes to explore nature. This class is a prerequisite to many courses in geology and is required for the Geology, Environmental Science, and Environmental Studies majors.

**Instructor:** **Dr. Charles E. Jones** ([cejones@pitt.edu](mailto:cejones@pitt.edu))

Office: SRCC 503

Office Hours: 10 to noon on TTh, or please send me an e-mail with three possible times.

**TAs:** Graduate: **Godspower Ubit** ([godspowerubit@pitt.edu](mailto:godspowerubit@pitt.edu)) will be grading all labs.

Upload the labs to GradeScope on Canvas. Contact him if you have a good reason why a lab will be late. Late labs are otherwise penalized 20%.

Undergrad: **1 pm: Trey Giles** ([tdg31@pitt.edu](mailto:tdg31@pitt.edu))

**3 pm: Quinn Eisenberger** ([qre1@pitt.edu](mailto:qre1@pitt.edu))

**In any e-mail message to us, please indicate your class and section.**

**Text:** Laboratory Manual for Physical Geology, 8th ed., by C.E. Jones and N.W. Jones, McGraw-Hill. **Beware: Used manuals are cheaper, but check to be sure that lab exercises (esp. Ch 6 and beyond) aren't torn out!** A copy that you can scan is on reserve in the Engineering Library.

**Supplies:** The labs are best completed using pencil, eraser, ruler, and calculator. Bring these items each week! **A hand lens is a great thing to own**, especially if you want to take more geology classes. The bookstore sells nice ones for about \$10, as does Amazon.com, but do be sure the loupe lens is made of glass. **NO PLASTIC LENSES!**

**Field Trip:** There is a required one-day field trip on either Saturday Oct 18 OR Sunday Oct. 19. It will run from about 8:30 am to no later than 5:00 pm. I'll post a sign-up list.

**Doing the class:** This lab is intended as a stand-alone class because we cannot coordinate with the several classes (GEOL 0800, GEOL 0820, and GEOL 0840) that serve as co-requisites.

**Readings:** Consult the class schedule on the next page for the sequence of labs. **Be sure to do each week's readings BEFORE the lab.** The chapters are short and designed specifically to tell you what you need to know to do each lab.

**Lectures:** Each class will start with a short lecture that will highlight *some* of the more difficult topics that are essential to completing the lab. We are shooting for the shortest possible lectures to give you the maximum time to do the lab while we are in the room to answer any questions.

**Doing the labs:** Dr. Jones and the UTAs will be available during lab to answer any and all questions. If you have any doubt in your mind, just raise your hand and ask! We'd rather be answering questions than standing around. **Don't be shy!**

**Help outside of lab time:** Most labs will require some work outside of the lab period. We have a complete set of lab materials available in SRCC 219 (the Resource Room) for you to use outside of the normal class time. This room is normally open when SRCC is open (but COVID may change this). Before you complain that this lab is too much work, most science labs are more work and give you just one credit. You get two credits for this lab, and it's less work: Bonus!

**Handing in your labs:** The deadline for uploading your completed labs to GradeScope (on Canvas) is each **Friday at 11:59 pm**. I've posted a separate document explaining which free cell phone apps you can use to create a single PDF for easy uploading. Each lab will have its own link for handing in that lab.

**Late policy:** Labs turned in late will be penalized 20%. Labs handed in after the old labs are handed back the following week will NOT be accepted. Always hand in a lab, even if you are not done! A grade of "zero" hurts your average a lot more than even a half-finished lab (50%).

**Class schedule:** The schedule below indicates the sequence of labs. Note that they do not go in numerical order by chapter. This is to allow time to give a quiz before the next lab that uses the relevant skills. It also makes the overall lab activities more varied. **Use this schedule to do the right readings before lab!**

Week	Tees	Tuesday Lab Topic	Thurs	Thursday Quiz Topic	PPTX Practice ID
1	26-Aug	Chapter 1: Mineral Properties	28-Aug	None	
2	2-Sep	Ch. 2: Mineral Identification	4-Sep	Ch. 1 Mineral Properties	Min Props
3	9-Sep	Ch. 6: Topographic Maps	11-Sep	Ch. 2 and Mineral I.D.	Min ID
4	16-Sep	Ch. 3: Igneous Rocks	18-Sep	Ch. 6 Topographic Maps	
5	23-Sep	Ch. 8: Streams	25-Sep	Ch. 3 and Ig Rocks I.D.	Igneous Rx
6	30-Sep	Ch. 4: Sedimentary Rocks	2-Oct	Ch. 8 Streams	
7	7-Oct	Ch. 7: Volcanic Hazards	9-Oct	Ch. 4 and Sed Rocks I.D.	Sed. Rocks
8	14-Oct	Ch. 5: Metamorphic Rocks	16-Oct	Ch. 7 Volcanic Hazards	
18-Oct	19-Oct	GEOL 0055 Field Trip: All day Saturday OR Sunday roughly 8:30 am to 4 pm			
9	21-Oct	Ch. 9: Groundwater	23-Oct	Ch. 5 and Mm Rocks I.D.	Mm Rocks
10	28-Oct	Ch. 13 & 14: Geol Time & Structures	30-Oct	Ch. 9 Groundwater	
11	4-Nov	Ch. 15: Geologic Maps	6-Nov	Ch. 13 & 14 Time and Structures	Structures
12	11-Nov	Ch 17: Plate Tectonics	13-Nov	Ch. 15 Geologic Maps	
13	18-Nov	Ch. 11: Sea Coasts	20-Nov	Ch 17: Plate Tectonics	Tect. Boundaries
14	25-Nov	Thanksgiving Break!	27-Nov	Thanksgiving Break!	
15	2-Dec	Ch. 10: Glaciation	4-Dec	Ch. 11: Sea Coasts	
16	1 pm section final exam is Friday December 12 12:00 to 1:50 pm in the regular classroom.				
	3 pm section final exam is Thursday December 11 10:00 to 11:50 am in the regular classroom.				

**Grades:** Grades will be based on the labs and quizzes:

Labs: 60%

Quizzes: 40%

The final exam point score will be added to the points earned in the quizzes.

Your grade will be based on the following scale: A = 90-100%; B = 80-90%; C = 70-80%; D = 60-70%; F = <60%. Letter grades are subdivided as follows, e.g., B- = 80.00 to 82.99%; B = 83.00 to 86.99, B+ = 87.00 to 89.99%. Canvas assigns the + and - grades using different numbers; I will use the numbers listed here. A curve has never been needed in this class.

**Attendance: You should attend all lab sessions.** If you miss a lab, the lab supplies for that week are in a labelled drawer (or are out on the tables) in the **Undergraduate Resource Room (SRCC 219)**, which should be accessible whenever the front door is open (Monday through Friday 8 am to 8 pm).

**If you become ill, or must quarantine, or otherwise are unable to come to the lab or Resource Room to work in-person with lab materials, please contact me immediately!**

The sooner you reach out, the easier it is to resolve the situation with minimal disruptions. Waiting until weeks after you have missed a bunch of labs to get in touch leaves me with few options to help.

**Diversity Statement:** We welcome diversity in all its forms because we look forward to a time when the sciences are as diverse as society as a whole. You represent the future of our field, and we wholeheartedly welcome you into this class. If you would like us to refer to you by particular pronouns, or if a scheduled activity conflicts with a religious holiday, or if there is something else that is preventing you from feeling a full part of this class, please let me know. Our job is to teach the next generation, and this most certainly includes you.

**Disabilities:** If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and [Disability Resources and Services](#) (DRS), 140 William Pitt Union, [drsrecep@pitt.edu](mailto:drsrecep@pitt.edu), 412-648-7890 (or 412-228-5347 for P3 ASL users), as early as possible in the term. Disability Resources and Services will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course.

**Cheating:** You are expected to work through the bulk of each lab on your own. If you do the work, you learn the material. However, when something puzzles you, you are encouraged to consult with each other and the TAs as necessary in order to resolve the question. **Remember: You must ultimately do your own work, come to your own conclusions, and write up the labs yourself.** Copying answers to your lab is cheating and will be prosecuted as such.

**Official Academic Integrity Policy:** [Plagiarism](#) and cheating on exams will not be tolerated. Students suspected of violating the University of Pittsburgh [Policy on Academic Integrity](#) will be required to participate in a defined process when it is initiated by the instructor. A minimum sanction of a zero score for the quiz, exam, or paper will be imposed. People convicted of cheating may also fail the class, and repeated violations can result in expulsion from the University.

**COVID-19: In-person policies:** We depend on everyone wearing their mask and doing their best to abide by the social distancing rules. If you become uncomfortable with the in-person labs, please feel free to immediately transition on-line. Just let the instructor know. If you feel sick (esp. if you also lose your sense of taste or smell), please immediately transition on-line and follow Pitt policies for testing and quarantining.

**On-line policies:** There is no penalty for taking this class on-line. My goal is to make the on-line experience as satisfying as I can, but part of this will depend on you. To avoid the common side-effect of isolation, it is important to try to reach out to the instructor, TAs, and the other students working on-line.

**Official E-mail Communication Policy:** You must use your University e-mail address ([username@pitt.edu](mailto:username@pitt.edu)) to send and receive communications related to this class.