

The Geology and Physical Geography of Asia
Spring, 2008
Cross-listed as: Asian Studies 195 - Geography 195 - Geosciences 195

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This is a team-taught, freshman-level interdisciplinary course designed to provide an introduction to the physical geology and geography of the Asian continent. Although no formal textbook has been assigned, frequent readings that relate to the class material will be assigned on a weekly or bi-weekly basis. You are responsible for keeping up with these readings, attending all class meeting, and participating in class discussions.

Grades for this class will be based on one midterm exam, one final exam, and one class project which you and your partner must present formally at the 2008 University of Montana Geodays Undergraduate Research Conference on April 4. The class project will account for 50% of your grade, and the midterm and final will each account for 25%. As part of your class project and in preparation for the research conference, you and your partner will need to work with Professors Gritzner and Hendrix to first select a topic, then prepare a 300 word abstract that summarizes your finding. In addition to presenting the results of your project at the Geodays conference, you and your partner will be required to write a ~3000 word term paper on the same topic. Note the deadlines for topic selection, as well as the first, second, and final drafts of your abstracts and the final term paper. These are hard deadlines. Your grade for each assignment will be lowered by 20% for each day that assigned product is late.

Revised Tentative Syllabus

Date	Instructor	Topic
Jan. 22	MSH/JAG	Course Introduction
Jan. 24	MSH	Summary of Asian geology
Jan. 29	MSH	Rock Cycle, rock types, and geologic time
Jan. 31	MSH	Intro to geologic structures and plate tectonics
Feb. 5	MSH	Plate tectonics, cont.; Precambrian roots of Asian continent
Feb. 7	MSH	The North-American Siberian connection – Jim Sears guest lecture <i>Geodays topic selection due</i>
Feb. 12	MSH	Paleozoic growth of the Asian continent

Feb. 14	MSH	Mesozoic growth of the Asian continent <i>Geodays abstract – first draft due</i>
Feb. 19	MSH	Guest lecture by Bendick/Kamp, Kashmir earthquake <i>Hendrix in New Brunswick for Atlantis meeting</i>
Feb. 21	MSH	Cenozoic tectonic evolution of Asia
Feb. 26	MSH	Asian paleoclimates – Paleozoic through Cenozoic
Feb. 28	MSH	Asia's geologic resources I <i>Geodays abstract - second draft due</i> <i>Gritzner at NGS meeting in Washington</i>
March 4	MSH	Asia's geologic resources II
March 6	JAG	Climate in modern Asia
March 11	MSH/JAG	MIDTERM EXAM
March 13	JAG	Water resources in Asia <i>Geodays abstract – final draft due</i>
March 18	JAG	Asia's rivers and glaciers
March 20	JAG	Asia's rivers and glaciers, cont.

March 25 – NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK

March 27 – NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK

April 1	JAG	Asia's lakes and interior seas
April 3	JAG	Asia's coastlines

Friday, April 4: UMCUR/ UM Geodays undergraduate research conference – all student research teams must present term project research results as either oral or poster presentation

April 8:	JAG	Asia's deserts
April 10:	JAG	Weather in Asia
April 15:	MSH	Weathering and the formation of soils <i>Gritzner at AAG meeting in Boston</i>
April 17	MSH	Soils in Asia <i>3000 word paper summarizing final project due</i>
April 22	JAG	Asia ecosystems <i>Hendrix at AAPG meeting in San Antonio</i>
April 24	JAG	Animal domestication in Asia
April 29	JAG	Asia and the human demominator
May 1	JAG	Asia and the human demominator, cont.

Final Exam: 8-10AM, Thursday, May 8