

Hi, this is Geologist Ruth Hanna.

Just a few comments to help you make the course worthwhile and interesting.

-> Pay attention to the photos in the textbook and on the textbook CD-ROM. Geology is a very tangible, all-around-you subject. For the rest of your life you are going to be seeing and traveling by all types of geologic features. Many of these are explained in this intro geology class. If you really study the photos in the book, you will then recognize them when you see them for real some time later in your life.

-> After inspecting a photo in the book, run internet image searches on that feature and check out what a variety of them look like. For example, if you were reading the chapter on groundwater and you were inspecting the textbook photo of a karst sinkhole, run an internet search on karst sinkholes and compare the photos so that you get a good feeling for what they look like.

-> In terms of what you should learn and explore, the more of the photos and features that you explore and spend time on, the more useful the class will be for you, and the longer that you will remember the material.

In terms of the course exams, at the end of your course syllabus I have provided you with a one-page study guide for each exam. In addition, I have made available a Geology Study Guide that you may purchase through the LPC Bookstore. This study guide includes outlines of all of my lectures and you can use those outlines to help you pinpoint what features and vocabulary will be the focus of the exam content.

The study guide also includes almost all of the exam questions. Not all of them, but most of them. And what that means is that you can use the Study Guide test bank as another way to focus your studying before you take the exams.

-> I also strongly recommend that you use the textbook CD-ROM as you work through each chapter. The CD-ROM content is organized into the same chapters as the textbook. If you were ready to start studying the Earthquakes chapter, the best approach is to open the CD-ROM chapter on Earthquakes, with the textbook open to that same chapter, and the Green Study Guide open to those notes.

The CD-ROM is visual and graphic and interactive, and this is much more effective use of your study time than simply trying to silently read the words in the textbook.

- Pay close attention to the photos and graphics in the CD-ROM and compare them to the ones in the textbook as you work through the chapter material.
- Use the Green Study Guide to ensure that you pay attention to the items that I have identified in my outline of the topic.
- Run internet image searches on the geologic features of that chapter so that you are comfortable with what they look like from different angles and in different locales.

-> Studies have shown that you will learn 3 times more effectively when you learn through visual media, instead of simply relying on written or spoken words. Learning more effectively means learning and remembering more quickly and for a longer period of time.

-> In summary, a major key for success in this course is the visual, the visual photos and images and geologic features. Pay attention to the visual aspects of the CD-ROM and the textbook and you will find the course useful and rewarding well after the term is over. In the short term, paying attention to the visual photos and graphics should make your study time much more time efficient and make it easier for you to remember and use the material during the exams.