

- This course has a 1000-point grading scale.
- The major exams in this class total to 1000 points.
- As you take exams and quizzes throughout the term, your personal term total will increase.
- You can view your term total of points at any time, by simply opening Your Geo 1 gradebook, and scrolling to the bottom of your summary grade list.
- Once your term total reaches
 - 900 points, you have an A
 - 800 points, you have a B
 - 700 points, you have a C
 - 600 points, you have a D
- You can finish the course early – as early as you can or want to.

TERM
<u>Grading Scale</u>
900 ≤ A
800 ≤ B < 900
700 ≤ C < 800
600 ≤ D < 700
F < 600

100 points	Vocabulary Exam
100 points	Module 1 Exam
100 points	Module 2 Exam
100 points	Module 3 Exam
100 points	Module 4 Exam
100 points	Module 5 Exam
100 points	Module 6 Exam
100 points	Module 7 Exam
200 points	Module 8 Exam
1000 points TOTAL	

- Check the front page of your course syllabus for the exam timeout dates.
Always finish the exams at least a week before the timeout deadlines.
- For each exam, you have unlimited attempts until the timeout dates. Your last attempt counts, none of the previous attempts count. The instructor will only see the result of your last attempt.
- You should study the material **before** taking the exams. If you are attempting to look everything up while taking the exam, you aren't going to be able to answer all of the questions before the timelimit expires. (typically 75 minutes for the major required exams).
- When studying you should
 - Take notes to focus your attention and maximize your study time and efficiency (don't waste your time with passive listening or reading, actively take notes and learn).
 - Answer the exam study questions in the Green Geology Study Guide
 - Pay attention to the photos and diagrams on the CD-ROM and in the textbook
 - Run internet searches to view more examples of the geologic features

The Module 8 Exam

- The Module 8 Exam is in two parts.
 - Part 1
 - is available from the beginning of the term.
 - has 10 questions at 2 points apiece, for a total of 20 points
 - once you score 18 or higher on Part 1, Part 2 will become available
 - Part 2
 - becomes available at least 2 weeks before the timeout deadline (check the front page of the course syllabus for the date)
or
 - as soon as you score 18 or higher on Part 1 (*which means that you can finish the course as early as you want to, but you would have to complete Part 1 before doing Part 2*).
 - Part 2 has 93 questions at 2 points apiece, for a total of 186 points
- You may choose to take $\frac{1}{2}$ of your Module 8 Part 2 Exam score and replace that for one or two of your previous major exam scores (the Module 1-7 exams or the Vocab exam).
 - If you want to replace one (or two) of your previous exam scores,
 - Click on Exams (Course Materials) in the left side menu in Blackboard
 - Then click on the folder titled 'Upgrade a low exam score?'
 - Follow the directions to submit your request
 - For example, let's say that
 - you had a 75 for your Module 2 exam
 - and an 81 for your Module 6 exam
 - and you have a 168 for your Module 8, Part 2 exam total
 - $\frac{1}{2}$ of your Mod 8 Part 2 score is 84
 - therefore, if you requested to have your Mod 2 and 6 scores replaced, you would then have an 84 for Mod 2 (instead of a 75) and you would have an 84 for Mod 6 (instead of an 81)
 - Please note that these requests for score replacements will not be processed until after the timeout deadline for Module 8 (that's during finals week).
 - Consult your syllabus and the information in Blackboard to make sure that you get your request submitted before the Module 8 exam timeout deadline.

Extra Credit

- Extra credit is extra – it is not required.
- Extra credit is provided for
 - Students who want to bank some extra points
 - Students who missed an exam timeout deadline and need points
 - Students who want to do more than what is required for the major exams
 - Some students find the extra credit challenging and fun. Now if you find that you aren't one of those, and you simply want things to be done and finished

and simpler and quicker, then you probably won't want to spend much time on the extra credit as you will just get frustrated.

- Extra credit is not easier than the required exams. The required exams are the easiest way to get points in this class.
- There are many different types of extra credit
 - There are three extra questions on each required major exam (Mods 1-8 and the Vocab Exam)
 - These questions are truly extra
 - You can get three questions wrong and still get a score of 100 on the exam
 - If you get all 103 questions correct, you've earned extra credit points
 - For example, if you get 102 questions correct, your score is 102. Your score will not be divided by 103 to get a percentage. You get 102 questions correct, you get 102 points.
 - Therefore, if you get every question correct on every required major exam, you could have a total of 1030 points (900 points is what is needed for an A).

Why are there three extra questions on each major Module Exam?

The reason I've allowed three extra questions on each major required exam is because accidents happen.

- You will probably click on the wrong answer at least once (I call it spaz-clicking), not because you don't know the correct answer, but simply because you had a little hand-eye-mouse coordination glitch.
- And as hard as I try to make the questions and answers bombproof (and I've spent hundreds of hours on the questions and they've been diligently proofed by former geology students), well as hard as we all try, there are still times when students look at a question and cock their heads to the side and squint little and protest with something like, "You know, if you read the question this way, then xyz is also an answer too."
- So to take care of your occasional spaz-click, or the occasional question that you think isn't worded properly or where you think there is more than one good answer, I've allowed you three freebies for every 100 questions on the required major exams.
- That means that you can miss three questions and still get 100 points.
- So if you are stressing over a question during the exam because you think something about the question isn't quite right, or you think there is more than one good answer, then just skip that question, guess an answer and move on. Let it go, you effectively get three 'freebies', and this will be one of them.
- Now, if there are more than three questions that you don't understand or have problems with, then you haven't studied enough before trying the exam, and I can state that with confidence. I haven't seen anyone who studied sufficiently before taking the exams who didn't do well on the exams.
- So the three extra questions are to counterbalance the odd question here or there, or to counterbalance the question or two where you might spaz-click by accident.
- Online Extra Credit Quizzes

- Six 50-point extra credit quizzes
 - These quizzes are for students who really did study, really were prepared for their exams, but something happened and they missed an exam timeout deadline or two.
 - There are six 50-point quizzes for a total of 300 extra credit points
 - Each quiz randomly pulls questions from the entire term, therefore, you probably won't be able to do well on these quizzes until near the end of the term
 - To earn the 50 points, you must score higher than 90 on each quiz. Scores lower than 90 will not receive any extra credit. Again, these quizzes are for students who really did study and really do know the material.
 - These quizzes are generally available for unlimited attempts from the beginning of the term until just before finals week (check the quiz listings in Blackboard for the exact timeout dates.)
- Other Assorted Extra Credit Quizzes
 - This folder includes an assortment of quizzes that range in value from 5-50 points.
 - Timeout deadlines and such are listed under the title for each quiz in Blackboard.
- Pop Quizzes
 - For the on-campus classes, there will be in-class pop quizzes.
 - These will be unannounced ahead of time
 - The quizzes are open-book, open-notes
 - The quizzes may be at the beginning of class or in the middle or at the end.
 - Students who are not in the classroom when the quiz is given, are not eligible for these points.
 - These Pop Quizzes are extra credit and can not be made up at a later time.
 - For the online DE students, the pop quizzes
 - Will appear, unannounced, in the Pop Quiz folder
 - Check this folder every day to see if there are any new pop quizzes
 - The quizzes are generally available for unlimited attempts until the specified timeout deadline (will be posted right under the quiz title when it appears). Generally, the quizzes are available for 24 hours, but occasionally may be only open for a shorter time, or occasionally available for a longer time. The point of the quizzes is to give incentive for students to log in often and frequently.
 - If you can not figure a quiz out,
 - You should make sure that you are not losing valuable study time for the required exams. The easiest points are on the required exams, not the extra credit.
 - You can send the instructor an email asking for a hint, but make sure that you don't rant angrily just because the quiz isn't as easy for you as you want it to be.

If you check the bottom of your Blackboard gradebook, you will see your term total of points, as well as the total number of points available in this course. This includes the extra credit points – which are not required.

- The required major exams (Modules 1-8 and the Vocab Exam) total 1000 points. Everything over 1000 points is extra credit and is not required. With the extra credit, there may be over 1500 points available.
- You do not need to work any of the extra credit if you do not wish to.
- Your term total at the bottom of your gradebook is your term score
- Compare your score to the term grading scale to see what your term grade will be
- If your term total is above 900 points, you get an A
- If your term total is above 800, but below 900, you get a B
- The extra credit is extra and is not required.