

**ROCK & MINERAL IDENTIFICATION  
(GEY 118, Section 601, CRN 20867)**

**Friday, 9/12 5:00PM-10:00PM & Saturday, 9/13 8:00AM-5:30PM, Room 2573**

Instructor: Dr. Eleanor (Ellie) Camann

Office: Room 2572

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Office Hours: Mon/Wed 4:00-5:30 PM, Tues 2:00-4:00 PM, or by appointment

**Recommended Text:** *Simon & Schuster's Guide to Rocks and Minerals*

**Other Course Materials:** In addition to the recommended text above, a recent edition of any Physical Geology textbook or lab manual would also be useful as a reference. Some handouts of written materials will be provided for your use during class, and other references may be available on D2L. You will need a pencil, eraser, and notepaper.

**General Course Description:** Introduces basic information on the definition, formation, identification, and uses of rocks and minerals. (1 credit hour)

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Identify minerals using physical and some optical properties
- Recognize the most abundant rocks of each major rock type
- List the modes of occurrence of each major rock type including localities in Colorado

A lot of class time will involve hands-on practice with mineral and rock identification. We will also have a two or three hour **field trip** on Saturday to see examples of the various rock types in the local area. All students must sign a waiver prior to the field trip, and carpooling is strongly encouraged. Further details will be given on Friday night.

**Attendance and Participation:** Attendance for all parts of this class is mandatory. Missing 5 hours or more will result in your receiving an "F" for your final class grade, regardless of your performance on graded material. Attendance and participation also count directly as 20% of your grade when calculating your average. In addition, there will be graded activities throughout class time, and there is no make-up for any of these for which you are not present. Missing one part of class also usually makes understanding of the next part difficult or impossible, since most of what we will be doing builds upon previous activities. Furthermore, you need to arrive on time each day and after breaks. Tardiness will result in a reduction of your attendance/participation grade, up to the maximum number of points. Likewise, sleeping during class, not pulling your weight in group activities, and any other type of "checking out" will also result in loss of these points.

Per school policy, students who do not attend the first night of class will also be dropped from the class.

Last day to drop class and initiate a tuition refund: **September 11\*\***

Last day to withdraw from a class ("W" recorded, no refund): **September 12\*\***

*\*\* Be sure to consult with appropriate offices on campus, particularly if you receive financial aid or are an international student, as dropping or withdrawing from a course may impact your status.*

**Class Assignments/Exams:** Unless explicitly told otherwise, all of your assignments and exams will be completed INDIVIDUALLY (no collaboration with classmates or anyone else) but will be "open book" for any PRINT notes/references you care to use. Your take-home assignment will be given to you at the end of the day on Saturday, and you will need to submit your work as a .doc, .docx, .pdf, or .rtf document using the DropBox on D2L no later than 9:00PM on Saturday, September 20. **No late work will be accepted**, so be sure to start early and get any technical help you need with D2L well in advance of the deadline. I will have your final grades posted no later than Saturday, September 27.

## Grading:

Attendance & Participation: 20 points  
In-Class Assignments and Quizzes: 40 points  
Field Trip Notes: 10 points  
Take-Home Assignment: 30 points  
Total = 100 points max

Your total out of the maximum of 100 points will be converted to a percentage and a letter grade will be assigned according to the following scale: 90-100% = A; 80-89% = B; 70-79% = C; 60-69% = D; 59% and below = F. Incompletes will not be given. Remember, you will receive **ZERO** points for any missed work, and will fail the class if you are absent for more than 5 hours of class time, or be dropped if those hours are the first night.

**Desire2Learn:** Please check the course page on “Desire2Learn” (a.k.a. D2L) as soon as you can, to be sure you have no access problems. I will use it to post course documents such as this syllabus and the PowerPoints used in class, and you will be using the Drop Box to submit your take-home assignment. You may also use it to check your grades for up to 3 weeks after the last class. Below are some helpful hints for using the software.

1. Go to the following web site: [www.rccc.edu](http://www.rccc.edu) and click on **The Rock** link
2. Login using your S# and self-selected PIN. Click the Desire2Learn link found on the Student Tab

New to **The Rock**?

3. Your username is your student ID (S#). You can find this number on your schedule or bill.
4. Your password is the first six characters of the PIN you created when you registered online. If you did not register online, the default PIN is your birthday (MMDDYY).
5. You will be prompted to enter a new strong password.
6. Click login and enter your S# and new password. Select Desire2Learn from the Student Tab

**Note:** Our system performs faster using Mozilla Firefox as the browser. If using Internet Explorer, some files may not open up.

**HELPDESK: 1-888-800-9198** or <http://help.cccs.edu/content/default.aspx>

The 24x7 helpdesk is staffed with people trained to answer questions about: - Log-ins - Registration System - Student email - Desire2Learn

**Academic Honesty:** Students at RRCC are expected to adhere to the policies for academic integrity and the student conduct code described in the Student Handbook. All students in this class will sign a pledge to be on their honor to do their own work and to follow these policies. Disciplinary action will be taken against any student found guilty of academic dishonesty such as cheating or plagiarism. Although you will often be working with others on activities, all written work for assignments and the exam **MUST** be your own. If your words match those of others, I will assume you copied rather than thinking about the answers yourself. If you are unclear whether or not your actions are acceptable, please ask in advance. Any student guilty of any form of academic dishonesty will receive a grade of ZERO for that assignment or exam and will be subject to additional disciplinary action, up to and including failing the course and/or being expelled from the college.

**Students with disabilities:** ADAAA (Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973: Red Rocks Community College is committed to access for students with disabilities. If you are a student with a disability and need assistance or are interested in requesting accommodations, please contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS). Faculty are not obligated to provide accommodations without proper notification by the ODS. Students may contact the ODS staff by telephone or email to make an intake appointment at 303-914-6733 or [ods@rccc.edu](mailto:ods@rccc.edu). The ODS is located in Suite 1182 at the Lakewood campus. More information is available at [www.rccc.edu/disabilityservices](http://www.rccc.edu/disabilityservices).

**Classroom etiquette and policies:**

1. Be courteous. Treat me, and your fellow students, with respect, and I will do the same.
2. Get to class and return from breaks on time.
3. Mobile devices should be turned off. Do not use them during class unless you are dealing with an urgent matter. In that case, please quietly leave the room to take/make your call or text.
4. If you use a laptop for anything other than in-class work, you will be asked to turn it off.
5. If you must leave during class for any reason, do not be disruptive when doing so.
6. Refrain from side conversations when the entire class is being addressed by me or by one of your classmates. These are very distracting to everyone.

Students not adhering to these policies are subject to disciplinary action. This may include being asked to leave the class for the day (and not being given the chance to make up what you miss as a result).

**Tentative List of Topics:**

*Friday night will take place entirely in the classroom, but 2 or 3 hours on Saturday will be spent outside on a field trip visiting local points of geologic interest. Be sure to wear clothing that is appropriate for changeable weather and footwear suitable for a little hiking. Water and sunscreen should also be brought with you.*

**Friday Night**

1. Introductions and Course Overview
2. Minerals
3. Rocks, the Rock Cycle, Basic Plate Tectonics

**Saturday**

4. Igneous Rocks
5. Sedimentary Rocks
6. Metamorphic Rocks
7. Field Trip
8. Putting it All Together
9. Course Evaluations, Instructions for Take-Home Assignment

**Acknowledgment of the RRCC Student Conduct Code:**

“I pledge to abide by the RRCC Student Conduct Code. I will be academically honest in all of my coursework and will not tolerate the academic dishonesty of others.”

Signature\_\_\_\_\_

Date\_\_\_\_\_

**Acknowledgment of Syllabus for this course (GEY 118, Fall 2014):**

“I have received the syllabus and understand the work load, grading policy, responsibilities, and expectations for this class.”

Signature\_\_\_\_\_

Date\_\_\_\_\_