University of Toronto at Scarborough
Department of Physical and Environmental Sciences

EES A06 Introduction to Planet Earth

Winter 2011

Lectures: Friday: 10-12 Room AA112

Professor Nick Eyles: Office hours Fridays 12-2 in S-567.

Teaching Assistants: Lisa Tutty, Kathy Wallace. Atheena DY and K. OFarrell

Overview

This is an introductory course aimed at anyone in the sciences or humanities. It is organized around the 5 part *Geologic Journey- World* series which aired on CBC's 'The Nature of Things' in late 2010. We will learn how planet Earth works by visiting countries in very different geologic settings and by

Required course text:
Plummer, McGeary, Carlson, Eyles, C. and Eyles, N. (2007) *Physical Geology and the Environment*. **2nd Canadian Edition**: McGraw-Hill, Ryerson, 606 pp.

Rationale

Planet Earth formed about 4.56 billion (Giga annum or Ga) years ago by condensation and accretion of dust and planetary debris. The oldest rocks are dated at about 4 Ga, the oldest bacterial life forms at about 3.5 Ga and an oxygenated atmosphere developed somewhere around 2 Ga before present. Multicellular animal life forms became abundant about 600 million years ago (600 Ma: mega annum: Ma) and the history of life has been conditioned by episodic

The course concludes by looking at the 4 billion years long geological history of Canada and Ontario including reference to modern environmental problems facing Canadians.

	Date	Lecture & Quiz Topics	Readings
Quiz 1			
Quiz 2			

Quiz 9			
Quiz10		IN CLASS	

Method of Evaluation and marks

10 Weekly quizzes/assignments (4 marks ea) starting Mon Jan 24th	40
Poster assignment (due March 4th)	25
Final exam (multiple choice)	35

Assignment

The assignment will consist of research and presentation of a printed poster at a special 'Planet Earth Conference' to be held in the meeting place on Friday March 4th in place of the normal lecture. Students can work in groups of up to 4 in number. I will provide details later as to topics.

Additional comments

Terms to remember: these are listed at the end of each chapter in the textbook and have been grouped into a **Glossary** on p. 585-595.

Testing your knowledge: please read and think about the questions listed at the end of each chapter, these may be used in the in quizzes each week.

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