

Info sheet and questionnaire for Ge 161, Plate Tectonics
Fall quarter 2009

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Ombudsperson TBA

Class meetings: Mon & Wed. 10-11; Tues & Thurs 9-10:30. We will narrow this down later after other courses are finalized. We will average 3 meetings per week for a total of 30 class meetings. There are also 2 optional classes.

Office hours: TBA

Grading: 75% homework
25% final report, including class presentation

Homework: Approximately one assignment per week. We will start off with handing them out on Thursdays and having them due the following Thursday. This class does not have exams.

Other tools needed for homework: colored pencils, scissors, metric ruler, protractor, calculator

Books (not required): Fowler, *The Solid Earth*, 2nd edition; *Plate Tectonics: How It Works*. (This one was out of print for a while but is now supposedly available.) These 3 are on reserve in the geology library. Anderson, *New Theory of the Earth* (chapter 4 only, which you can get on the internet – see the online course schedule). Many handouts will be given out in class or posted on the class web site.

NOTE: You will need a **GPS Division computer account** for LINUX/UNIX for many of the class assignments. If you don't have one, please let us know and we will arrange one for you.

Final report. You will be assigned one region of the earth in order to concentrate on understanding the plate tectonic aspects as we go through the class. This will be topic of your final report. Each student will select a different region.

Note on the final report - you will prepare figures and text for this report during many of the regular assignments during the quarter. When you assemble your final report at the end of the quarter, you should have a lot of the work already done for it, so that you mainly need to synthesize and summarize your results.

In-class presentation of final report: During the last week of classes, each student will give a short oral presentation (2- 5 minutes) of what new or surprising information they learned about the area they studied. Each student can show one or two figures (overhead or PowerPoint slide) to accompany this summary. Details will be given later on after we determine how much time is available.

Ge 161 (Plate Tectonics) – Fall 2009- Questionnaire

(Please return this to Joann by Friday, October 2, 2009.)

Name: _____ Phone: _____ email: _____

Grad/undergrad, year, and specialty: _____

If you are a grad student, what was your undergraduate major? _____

Are you taking this course for credit or as a listener? _____

Do you already have a GPS Division computer account? _____

How comfortable are you with UNIX/LINUX (very / not much / not at all)? _____

Have you used GMT mapping software (lots / a little / never / etc)? _____

Please indicate below if you have ever used stereonets (stereographic projections), and how comfortable you feel with them.

Have never used stereonets _____

Used them a little bit, but could use a review of the basics (extra session outside of regular class time) _____

Know them really well, or can teach myself, and I don't want to come to a review session anyway _____

I am an expert in the use of stereonets and can help the other students learn them _____

Please list recent geology and geophysics courses taken (at Caltech or elsewhere).

Please list your most recent classes in math and physics.

If you have any problems with color blindness (red-green color blind, etc.) please come to talk to us so that we can make sure to use illustrations that you can distinguish in class.