

California Geology

Course Meets: Monday and Wednesday Nights, “6:20 movement”

Textbook: *California Geology*, by Deborah Harden
(to be distributed the third or fourth week of class)

Motivation

Have you ever kicked a pebble on your way to work? You probably didn’t pay much attention to it at the time, but this class will change all that. That pebble, along with all other rocks and landscapes, are trying to tell you a story. By the end of this class, I hope that you will be able to look at a pebble or an entire mountain and have a better appreciation for how it got to be the way it is.

Approach

We will cover the essentials of a college **Physical Geology** class. We will focus on **inquiry** and **discovery**, both of which require perceptive **observational skills**, but also quantitative analysis (math!). The state of California provides the framework for the entire class – while we will discuss geologic processes and examples from outside the state, each topic will be motivated by a particular region of California. The state is so large and so diverse, that we have almost all major geologic features and phenomenon represented within our borders.

Expectations

You will be responsible for:

- Regular attendance (lockdowns, etc. are understood...)
- Enthusiastic Participation in all class activities
- Weekly Reading Assignments (either from the textbook or supplementary materials)
- Weekly exercises preparing you for in-class exercises
- Weekly homework assignments, to be completed primarily outside of class.
- One midterm exam
- One final exam