

ERTH 456 / GEOL 556  
Volcanology  
Fall 2016, 3 credits  
Lecture: MF 11:00-11:50, room: Bureau 111A  
Lab: W 14:00-16:55, room: Speare 3 (starts week 2)  
Syllabus v.1.0

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Office Hours: TR 3-4 PM or make appointment  
Course Website: [http://grapenthin.org/teaching/volc\\_2016](http://grapenthin.org/teaching/volc_2016)

**Course Description:** The first 2/3 of the class give an overview of volcanic processes roughly from magma chamber to plume. This involves the investigation of magma storage genesis, conduit dynamics, effusive and explosive eruption processes, and exceptionally large, caldera forming eruptions. The last 1/3 of the course will look into tools for volcano monitoring and analysis. This will be paired with several case studies that require very active student participation. In lieu of homework assignments, the students can expect to be required to read assigned papers particularly for the case studies.

**Pre-requisites:** upper division earth sciences.

**Class Website:** Assignments and supplementary material will be posted on the class website [http://grapenthin.org/teaching/volc\\_2016](http://grapenthin.org/teaching/volc_2016). Grades will be posted to canvas.

**Required Text:** No textbook required, but required readings will be posted on the class website.

**Tentative Schedule:** (subject to modification)

Week 1	Aug 22	Lecture 1	RG	Introduction, logistics, Examples
	Aug 24	LAB 1	RG	no lab.
	Aug 26	Lecture 2	RG	Volcano Distribution
Week 2	Aug 29	Lecture 3	RG	Magma Origin & Composition
	Aug 31	LAB 2	RG	Viscosity
	Sep 02	Lecture 4	RG	Types of Volcanism & Development of storage systems
Week 3	Sep 05	<b>Labor Day, no class</b>		
	Sep 07	LAB 3	RG	
	Sep 09	Lecture 5	RG	Conduit Systems

Week 4	Sep 12	Lecture 6	ND	Magma Chemistry
	Sep 14	LAB 4	RG	
	Sep 16	Lecture 7	RG	Effusive Eruptions & Lava Domes
Week 5	Sep 19	Lecture 8	ND	Volatiles
	Sep 21	LAB 5	RG	
	Sep 23	Lecture 9	RG	Explosive Eruptions
	<b>Sep 23</b>	<b>5 PM, Term project idea due</b>		
Week 6	Sep 26	Lecture 10	BM	Calderas
	Sep 28	LAB 6	RG	
	Sep 30	Lecture 11	BM	Calderas
	Oct 01	Field Trip II		<i>Jemez</i>
Week 7	Oct 03	Lecture 12	RG	Volcanic Plumes
	Oct 05	LAB 7	RG	
	Oct 07	Lecture 13	RG	Volcanoes and Climate
Week 8	Oct 10	Lecture 14	ND	Tephra & Tephrochronology
	Oct 12	LAB 9	RG	
	Oct 14	<i>49ers Day, no class</i>		
Week 9	Oct 17	Lecture 15	MZ	NM Volcanism
	Oct 19	LAB 9	RG	
	Oct 21	Lecture 16	MZ	Volcanic Hazards
Week 10	Oct 24	Lecture 17	RG	Monitoring and Analysis Techniques overview
	Oct 26	LAB 10	RG	
	Oct 28	Lecture 18	ND	Electron Microprobe
	Oct 29	Field Trip II		<i>San Mateo Mnts Tuffs</i>
Week 11	Oct 31	Lecture 19	RG	Volcano Seismology
	Nov 02	LAB 11	RG	
	Nov 04	Lecture 20	BS?	Volcano Seismology - Mt. St. Helens
	<b>Nov 04</b>	<b>5 PM, term paper due</b>		
Week 12	Nov 07	Lecture 21	RG	Volcano Geodesy
	Nov 09	LAB 12	RG	
	Nov 11	Lecture 22	RG	Case Study - Iceland
	Nov 12	Field Trip III		<i>Grants</i>
Week 13	Nov 14	Lecture 23	TF?	Volcanic Gases
	Nov 16	LAB 13	RG	
	Nov 18	Lecture 24	RG	Case Study from list
Week 14	Nov 21	Lecture 25	RG	Remote Sensing & Infrasond
	Nov 23	LAB 14	RG	
	Nov 25	<i>Thanksgiving, no class</i>		
Week 15	Nov 28	Lecture 26	RG	Case Study - from list
	Nov 30	LAB 15	RG	
	Dec 02	Lecture 27	RG	Case Study - from list
Week 16	Dec 05	<i>Project Presentations</i>		
	Dec 07	<i>Project Presentations</i>		

	Dec 09	<i>Project Presentations, lab 15 due</i>
	<b>Dec 04</b>	<b>5 PM, final term paper due</b>
Week 16	Dec 10-16	<i>Finals week, no class</i>

**Possible Case Studies:** This class will contain a number of case studies of eruptions. For each of these, we will ask these and other questions:

- What was the precursory activity?
- How was the eruption recorded?
- Eruptive products?
- How did the eruption compare to prior activity
- What did we learn from the event?
- Impact of the event?

List of options:

- Socorro Magma Body
- Iceland: Holuhraun/Barðabunga 2014 (vs Laki 1783?)
- Redoubt 2009
- Mt St Helens 1980 / 2006
- Pinatubo 1991
- Yellowstone - recent activity vs caldera forming eruptions
- Nevado del Ruiz 1985
- Krakatoa 1883
- Tambora 1816
- Kilauea ongoing

**Course Requirements:** There will be no graded homework assignments, but the students will be expected to have reviewed assigned reading before lectures.

Graduate students will prepare a term project including an in-class presentation and an expository term paper of roughly 10-12 pages (NSF Formatting [http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/policydocs/pappguide/nsf16001/gpg\\_2.jsp#IIB](http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/policydocs/pappguide/nsf16001/gpg_2.jsp#IIB)). The topic of this project should be related to the course content and objectives and should involve some data analysis, modeling and interpretation. Your topic must be approved by the instructor before you begin to work on it. You might apply techniques from the course to process, analyze and interpret data that you have gathered in your research, or

you might choose one of the provided projects. If you choose thesis related work, it must be a new aspect; recycling of existing work is not permitted. In-class presentations are scheduled for the last week of classes. Note that the first term paper due date will be used to grade for completeness; the second term paper due date will grade on completeness and correctness.

**Grading:** **ERTH456:** Labs: 50%, Field Trip Reports 30%, Class & Case study participation: 20%.

**ERTH556:** Labs: 40%, Term Project 50%, Case Study participation: 10%.

Grades will be assigned for each lab based upon assignment completeness and accuracy. Details for field trip reports will be made available before the trip. Unless otherwise noted, assignments will be due one week after they are assigned – they must be submitted prior to the beginning of subsequent lab period. Assignments are due both electronically (submit via email) and in print and must be the work of individual students. **Assignments will not be accepted late.** There are no exams in this class.

**Term Project Ideas:** If you cannot come up with a suitable project of your own, I have a few that would benefit from someone working on them. Get in touch with me if any of these sound interesting:

- Edifice driven change in composition at Antarctic Volcanoes?
- Lahar signals in Redoubt 2009 GPS data?
- Dike propagation experiments

**Place in Curriculum:** This elective course is for majors and non-majors who fulfill the requirements.

**Course Learning Outcomes:** By the end of this course, students will have a working understanding of volcanology and a set of modern tools used to analyze volcanoes. Students will have an understanding of how magma migrates within the earth, through the crust and to the surface into the atmosphere; how different kinds of eruptions are generated and what hazards volcanoes pose to society and climate. Case studies of prominent past eruptions will put the learned materials into perspective of individual volcanoes. Field trips within New Mexico will link theory to observations in the field. The term project will allow the students to apply the materials and methods learned in the class to one problem in depth. Students will be able to critically evaluate volcanological work presented in the research literature and be able to use the methods in their own research.

**Program Learning Outcomes:** The learning outcomes of the Earth and Environmental Science program are that students will be able to: (1) Understand and apply the facts and concepts central to Earth science (e.g., geological processes and materials, Earth history, application of quantitative physics and chemistry to earth processes). (2) Demonstrate a working knowledge of the skills and methods necessary to collect, analyze and report data relevant to the discipline (e.g., rock identification, field mapping, geophysical methods). (3) Conceptualize, abstract and solve both qualitative and quantitative problems in the discipline. (4) Integrate and synthesize disparate geoscientific information into a coherent understanding.

**Counseling and Disability Services – Reasonable Accommodations:** New Mexico Tech is committed to protecting the rights of individuals with disabilities. Qualified individuals who require reasonable accommodations are invited to make their needs known to the Office of Counseling and Disability Services (OCDS) as soon as possible. To schedule an appointment, please call 835-6619.

**Counseling and Disability Services – Counseling Services:** New Mexico Tech offers mental health and substance abuse counseling through the Office of Counseling and Disability Services. The confidential services are provided free of charge by licensed professionals. To schedule an appointment, please call 835-6619.

**Academic Honesty:** New Mexico Tech’s Academic Honesty Policy for undergraduate students is found starting on page 60 of the NMT Undergraduate Catalog,

[http://www.nmt.edu/images/stories/registrar/pdfs/2014-2015\\_UNDERGRADUATE\\_Catalog\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.nmt.edu/images/stories/registrar/pdfs/2014-2015_UNDERGRADUATE_Catalog_FINAL.pdf)

New Mexico Tech’s Academic Honesty Policy for graduate students is found starting on page 59 of the NMT Graduate Catalog,

[http://www.nmt.edu/images/stories/registrar/pdfs/2014-2015\\_GRADUATE\\_Catalog\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.nmt.edu/images/stories/registrar/pdfs/2014-2015_GRADUATE_Catalog_FINAL.pdf)

You are responsible for knowing, understanding, and following this policy.

**Respect Statement:** New Mexico Tech supports freedom of expression within the parameters of a respectful learning environment. As stated in the New Mexico Tech Guide to Conduct and Citizenship: “New Mexico Tech’s primary purpose is education, which includes teaching, research, discussion, learning, and service. An atmosphere of free and open inquiry is essential to the pursuit of education. Tech seeks to protect academic freedom and build on individual responsibility to create and maintain an academic atmosphere that is a purposeful, just, open, disciplined, and caring community.”

**Cell phones:** Cell phones will be set on vibrate to accommodate potential emergencies.