

**J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College  
Course Content Summary**

**Course Prefix and Number: GOL 106**

**Credits: 4**

**Course Title: Historical Geology**

**Course Description (including lecture hours, lab hours, total contacts)**

Traces the evolution of the earth and life through time. Presents scientific theories of the origin of the earth and life and interprets rock and fossil record. Lecture 3 hours. Laboratory 3 hours. Total 6 hours per week.

**General Course Purpose**

This course is designed to satisfy 4 credits of a laboratory science for the Science AS, Social Sciences AS, and Liberal Arts degree programs.

**Course Prerequisites/Corequisites** (*Entry-level competencies **required** for enrollment*)

Prerequisite: GOL 105 or equivalent

**Course Objectives** (Each item should complete the following sentence.)

Upon completing the course, the student will be able to:

- a. Understand the concept of geologic time and age dating.
- b. Understand organic evolution and the fossil record.
- c. Understand the origin of Planet Earth and its atmosphere and oceans.
- d. Understand the physical and biological evolution of the planet through time.
- e. Understand the importance of humankind's inheritance from Planet Earth and our responsibilities as stewards of the planet.

**Major Topics to be Included**

- a. Time, Fossils, and Evolution
- b. Relative and Absolute Dating
- c. Origin of Planet Earth, Cryptozoic History, and Early Life on the Planet
- d. The Paleozoic Era
- e. The Mesozoic Era and the Age of Reptiles
- f. The Cenozoic Era and the Age of Mammals
- g. The Pleistocene Epoch and the Evolution of Humans
- h. The Future of the Planet
- i. The Geology of Virginia

**Effective Date of Course Content Summary (Month, Date Year):** 02/16/09