CoSM Class Syllabus / Policy

2023 / Fall Semester

GEOL 1104.500

The Earth Through Time Laboratory

Name: Dr. Kevin W. Stafford

Department: Earth Sciences and Geologic Resources

Email: staffordk@sfasu.edu

Phone: 936-468-2429

Office: E.L. Miller Science, Room 315

Office Hours: This is an online course and office hours will be offered electronically. In office hours: Monday and Wednesday 8AM to 11AM.

The lecture and laboratory portion of this class are both online classes. Please refer to the detailed calendar found as a webpage in this module. There is a mandatory quiz associated with this syllabus, so please read all the information in this unit carefully and then complete the Course Information and Syllabus Quiz in order to proceed into the course material.

Note: this quiz must be completed before any of the course material will be made available, the lecture and lab modules will remain locked until you complete this quiz.

Text and Materials:

• *The Changing Earth* (7th edition), Monroe and Wicander, 2015 (required)

COVID-19 Updates: As of August 1, 2021, Stephen F. Austin State University returned campus pandemic safety protocols to Status 1 (Normal Operations). This change follows Texas Governor Greg Abbott’s Executive Order GA-38 as well as evolving guidelines produced by the CDC and state mandates. SFA strongly encourages all students, faculty and staff to visit with their healthcare provider regarding the COVID-19 vaccination, wear a mask in public indoor settings, frequently wash hands, and maintain physical distance when possible. Though these precautions are not required, actions like these are known to be effective in reducing the spread of COVID-19.

Course Description: The Earth Through Time Laboratory (GEOL 1104) - One semester hour. The history and development of the continents and ocean basins and the evolution of life on Earth; includes earthquakes and the Earth’s interior, mountain building, drifting of continents and sea-floor spreading,
the Ice Ages, space science and oceanography. Co-requisite: GEOL 1304. Prerequisite: GEOL 1303.

Program Learning Outcomes:

- PLO 1. Demonstrate knowledge of fundamental geoscience concepts. *(Concepts)*
- PLO 2. Execute geoscience procedures and methods accurately, appropriately, and safely. *(Geoscience Skills)*
- PLO 3. Demonstrate proficiency in interpretation and communication of geoscience information. *(Scientific Communication)*
- PLO 4. Apply concepts, skills, and scientific communication to identify, analyze, and interpret geoscience phenomena. *(Research)*

General Education Core Curriculum Objectives/Outcomes. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) has identified six core learning objectives: Critical Thinking Skills, Communication Skills, Empirical and Quantitative Skills, Teamwork, Personal Responsibility, and Social Responsibility. SFA is committed to the improvement of its general education core curriculum by regular assessment of student performance on these six objectives. By enrolling in GEOL 1104 Historical Geology Lab, you are also enrolling in a Core Curriculum course that seeks to develop the six core objectives established by the THECB, and that fulfills the Physical and Life Sciences Core Curriculum requirement. The student is expected to develop the following core objectives established by the THECB:

- CO 2. Communication Skills. Effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written and visual communication (SLO 4-5).
- CO 3. Empirical and Quantitative Skills. Manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions (SLO 1-2.4).
- CO 4. Teamwork. The ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal (SLO 3-5).

By enrolling in GEOL 1104 you are also enrolling in a Core Curriculum Course that fulfills the requirement of the skills listed above.

The chart below indicates: (a) The core objectives that are required to be taught in this course per the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), (b) How the required core objectives will be addressed.

**Core Curriculum Objective Table**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Objective</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>How the Core Objective Will be Addressed.</th>
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</thead>
</table>

Critical Thinking Skills

To include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.

Students will analyze and assess organism habitat based on fossil preservation in Exam 2 (see course calendar).

Communication Skills

To include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas though written, oral, and visual communication.

Students will complete weekly lab assignments that require written communication that is verified in weekly quizzes (see course calendar).

Empirical and Quantitative Skills

To include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions.

Students will quantify rates of seafloor spread in Lab 4 (see course calendar).

Teamwork

To include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal.

Students will participate in online discussions in the "Questions about the Lab" open forum.

**Student Learning Outcomes:** After successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- **SLO 1.** Demonstrate an understanding of fundamental geologic concepts as they relate to Earth processes and landscape evolution through geologic time (CO 1, 3).
- **SLO 2.** Use quantitative reasoning to interpret geologic data (tables, figures, graphs) from primary research, data assimilation, and models to assess the differences in competing scientific theories associated with rock formation (CO 1, 3).
- **SLO 3.** Demonstrate knowledge on the interdependence of science and technology and the influences on geologic reasoning associated with identifiable and testable hypotheses of geologic processes (CO 1, 4).
- **SLO 4.** Critically assess the interrelationships between geologic phenomena and communicate the resulting conclusions in visual and written formats (CO 1, 3, 4).
- **SLO 5.** Demonstrate an understanding of the skills and attitudes necessary for effective teamwork in collaborative learning activities (CO 3, 4).

**Course Requirements:** GEOL1104 (The Earth Through Time Lab) is an introduction to the fascinating and complex processes of planet Earth – an ever-changing dynamic environment. Historical Geology is the evolutionary history of geologic processes, and in this course, students will be introduced to the development of continents, ocean basins, mountain chains, volcanoes, earthquakes and many other geologic events. The rock record has also preserved the remains of various life forms,
from microscopic invertebrates to large carnivorous reptiles and mammals. This course will introduce some of the various life forms that have evolved over time, their relative success and some of the factors that brought about their demise.

This class is a 1-credit hour lab course and has a weekly co-requisite lecture. Grades from the lecture and lab will be separate.

**Time:** Remember, you are expected to spend the same amount of time on online courses that you would spend for in the classroom for face-to-face courses. That is, expect to spend three hours per week on the lecture portion and three hours per week on the co-requisite laboratory portion. In addition, success in this course would also require additional time spent on the material and studying; reports indicate that two to three additional hours (per credit hour) be spent—independent of whether the class is online or face-to-face. Many of you are choosing to take an online course because of your work schedule, family responsibilities, and scheduling conflicts, so your time is precious. Be aware of the time commitment required by this course and work responsibly.

**Course Topics to be covered:**

**UNIT 1: Fundamentals of Historical Geology**
- The Rock Cycle
- Sedimentology
- Plate Tectonics
- Depositional Environments
- Geologic Time

**UNIT 2: Geologic Time and the Fossil Record**
- Fossilization and Taphonomy
- Major Marine Fossil Groups
- Early Paleozoic Paleontology
- Late Paleozoic Paleontology
- Mesozoic Paleontology

*See the [GEOL 1104 Course Calendar](https://d2l.sfasu.edu/content/enforced/418347-18660.202410/Course%...) webpage for the dates associated with each topic.*

**Access to Content:** I will provide access to the content as listed on the Course Calendar. By no means are you required to begin the content when it opens, but some of you have very tight schedules and could benefit from an early start. All lecture exams will be available for 24 hours beginning at the time scheduled. You will be able to receive your score on exams or quizzes immediately, provided there are no answers that need to be individually graded such as fill-In-the-blank or short answer questions. In these cases, time will be needed to review the assessments and make sure questions were asked and graded fairly. Answers to quiz and exam questions will be available once every classmate has submitted their assessment, but that day is usually on Monday after assessments are taken. Quizzes, unit, and module content will be available until the date of closure identified on the Course Calendar, but module content **cannot be viewed the day of an exam.** So, plan appropriately!

**Lab** Examination Schedule:*
• Lab Exam 1: see Course Calendar
• Lab Exam 2: see Course Calendar

*Please see the Course Calendar webpage for the opening and closing times associated with these exams.

All lecture exams will include a multiple-choice section with additional sections that will vary between exams but may include any or all of the following sections: 1) multiple choice questions; 2) true / false questions; 3) fill in the blank questions; 4) short answer questions; 5) figure illustration; 6) short essay questions. **All exams will take place online and be delivered via d2l.** The exams will cover questions from lecture modules and assigned activities and outside sources (videos, webpages) referred to in the material. The essay questions are part of the test and I expect you to use complete sentences, correct grammar and spelling.

There are between 20 and 50 questions each on each lab exam, and you will be given 50 minutes to complete the exams. The exams are **not** cumulative, but they are timed and you will not have adequate time to refer back to Unit/Module content. Questions on lecture exams and quizzes are written by the instructor, and the assessment content has been presented in the online content. D2L randomly selects questions from a question bank, and they appear one question at a time. You may not return to any question and change your answer after leaving that page so be sure of your response (study ahead of time!) before answering. It is recommended that you save your responses as you complete each question because of unknown timing of computer or power failure. I cannot help you if questions have not been saved. Once the time allotment for the exam has expired, the exam will be ended and scored.

No outside work or extra credit will be assigned to help improve your grade, so be prepared for the quizzes and exams. It is imperative that you log on and participate in all course material, pay attention to the course calendar, and keep up with the due dates for quizzes, discussions, and exams. In other words – get your money’s worth!

**Dependable internet connection:** Especially when taking quizzes or exams, always rely on a dependable internet connection. I do not recommend taking an assessment via your phone or any public wireless connection (McDonalds, Starbucks, etc.).

**Discussion Board:** The Discussion Board can be used as a place to exchange information between the instructor and classmates. There will be a general "Questions" post where students can ask questions regarding the course content. This is helpful to all, and I will respond to questions as quickly as possible. I always appreciate questions, and am happy to try to help. Please keep your discourse respectful to all, inappropriate comments will not be tolerated.

**Lab Grading Policy:**

• Two exams @ 100 points each = 200 points*
• Eleven online quizzes @ 20 points each = 220 points
• Return of Lab Kit @ 100 points = 100 points
• Total possible points = 520 points
• Lab grade = your total points / 520, then multiply by 100
• Example: your lecture point total 458 / 520 = 0.85 x 100 = 88
Grade Scale:  90-100 + A, 80-89 + B, 70-79 + C, 60-69 + D, < 60 =  F

Academic Integrity: Abiding by university policy on academic integrity is the responsibility of all university faculty and students. You are encouraged to ask questions about completing your coursework with academic integrity. Articles IV, VI, and VII of the new Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outline the violations and procedures concerning academic conduct, including cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and misrepresentation. Cheating includes, but is not limited to: (1) Copying from the test paper (or other assignment) of another student, (2) Possession and/or use during a test of materials that are not authorized by the person giving the test, (3) Using, obtaining, or attempting to obtain by any means the whole or any part of a non-administered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program, or using a test that has been administered in prior classes or semesters without permission of the Faculty member, (4) Substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for one’s self, to take a test, (5) Falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other records or academic work offered for credit, (6) Using any sort of unauthorized resources or technology in completion of educational activities. Plagiarism is the appropriation of material that is attributable in whole or in part to another source or the use of one’s own previous work in another context without citing that it was used previously, without any indication of the original source, including words, ideas, illustrations, structure, computer code, and other expression or media, and presenting that material as one’s own academic work being offered for credit or in conjunction with a program course or degree requirements. Collusion is the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any provision of the rules on academic dishonesty, including disclosing and/or distributing the contents of an exam. Misrepresentation is providing false grades or résumés; providing false or misleading information in an effort to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit for oneself or another individual or to injure another student academically or financially.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty: Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit.

Please read the complete policy.

Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (5.5): Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.
The circumstances precipitating the request must have occurred after the last day in which a student could withdraw from a course. Students requesting a WH must be passing the course with a minimum projected grade of C.

**Students with Disabilities:** To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to the [Office of Disability Services website](https://d2l.sfasu.edu/content/enforced/418347-18660.202410/Course%...).

**Mental Health and Wellness:** SFA values students’ mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. SFA provides a variety of resources to support students' mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.

**On-campus Resources:**

- **SFA Counseling Services** Rusk Building, 3rd Floor 936.468.2401
- **SFA Human Services Counseling Clinic** Human Services, Room 202 936.468.1041

**Crisis Resources:**

- Burke 24-hour crisis line: 1.800.392.8343
- Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1.800.273.TALK (8255)
- Crisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741
## GEOL 1104 Course Calendar (Fall 2023)

Note: all times in course calendar are local time at Stephen F. Austin State University (US Central Time Zone)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Start Date</th>
<th>Lab Module</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Start Here!</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>Read through Start Here! Lab Module</td>
<td>The Start Here! Lab Module 1 content will</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Print course calendar</td>
<td>remain available throughout course.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 28, 2023</td>
<td><strong>Lab Module 1</strong></td>
<td>Getting Started / Course Information</td>
<td>E-mail your physical address information to course instructor ASAP to have your lab kit shipped to you.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Take Course Content Quiz</td>
<td>Lab Module 1 Quiz closes August 31, 2023 at 11:00 AM</td>
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### Unit 1 - Fundamentals of Historical Geology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Start Date</th>
<th>Lab Module</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 31, 2023</td>
<td><strong>Lab Module 2</strong></td>
<td>The Rock Cycle: A GOL 131 Review</td>
<td>Lab Module 2 Content will remain available until October 11, 2023 at 11:00 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Read through Lab Module 2 content and complete associated lab activities</td>
<td>Lab Module 2 Quiz closes September 07, 2023 at 11:00 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 7, 2023</td>
<td><strong>Lab Module 3</strong></td>
<td>Sedimentology: A Review of Sedimentary Rocks</td>
<td>Lab Module 3 Content will remain available until October 11, 2023 at 11:00 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Read through Lab Module 3 content and complete associated lab activities</td>
<td>Lab Module 3 Quiz closes September 14, 2023 at 11:00 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 14, 2023</td>
<td><strong>Lab Module 4</strong></td>
<td>Plate Tectonics and Earth Structure</td>
<td>Lab Module 4 Content will remain available until October 11, 2023 at 11:00 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Read through Lab Module 4 content and complete associated lab activities</td>
<td>Lab Module 4 Quiz closes September 21, 2023 at 11:00 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 21, 2023</td>
<td><strong>Lab Module 5</strong></td>
<td>Depositional Environments</td>
<td>Lab Module 5 Content will remain available until October 11, 2023 at 11:00 AM</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Read through Lab Module 5 content and complete associated lab activities</td>
<td>Lab Module 5 Quiz closes September 28, 2023 at 11:00 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 28, 2023</td>
<td><strong>Lab Module 6</strong></td>
<td>Geologic Time</td>
<td>Lab Module 6 Content will remain available until October 11, 2023 at 11:00 AM</td>
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<td>Read through Lab Module 6 content and complete associated lab activities</td>
<td>Lab Module 6 Quiz closes October 05, 2023 at 11:00 AM</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**October 11, 2023 - Lab Exam 1**

Lab Exam 1 will open on October 11, 2023 at 11:00 AM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Start Date</th>
<th>Lab Module</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 12, 2023</td>
<td><strong>Lab Module 7</strong></td>
<td>Fossilization and Taphonomy</td>
<td>Lab Module 7 Content will remain available until November 29, 2023 at 11:00 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Read through Lab Module 7 content and complete associated lab activities</td>
<td>Lab Module 7 Quiz closes October 19, 2023 at 11:00 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 19, 2023</td>
<td><strong>Lab Module 8</strong></td>
<td>Major Marine Fossil Groups</td>
<td>Lab Module 8 Content will remain available until November 29, 2023 at 11:00 AM</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Read through Lab Module 8 content and complete associated lab activities</td>
<td>Lab Module 8 Quiz closes October 26, 2023 at 11:00 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Module</td>
<td>Activity</td>
<td>Deadline Details</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 26, 2023</td>
<td><strong>Lab Module 9</strong> Early Paleozoic Paleontology</td>
<td>Read through Lab Module 9 content and complete associated lab activities</td>
<td>Lab Module 9 Content will remain available until November 29, 2023 at 11:00 AM</td>
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<td>Complete Lab Module 9 Quiz</td>
<td>Lab Module 9 Quiz closes November 02, 2023 at 11:00 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 2, 2023</td>
<td><strong>Lab Module 10</strong> Late Paleozoic Paleontology</td>
<td>Read through Lab Module 10 content and complete associated lab activities</td>
<td>Lab Module 10 Content will remain available until November 29, 2023 at 11:00 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Complete Lab Module 10 Quiz</td>
<td>Lab Module 10 Quiz closes November 09, 2023 at 11:00 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 9, 2023</td>
<td><strong>Lab Module 11</strong> Mesozoic Paleontology</td>
<td>Read through Lab Module 11 content and complete associated lab activities</td>
<td>Lab Module 11 Content will remain available until November 29, 2023 at 11:00 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Complete Lab Module 11 Quiz</td>
<td>Lab Module 11 Quiz closes November 16, 2023 at 11:00 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 23, 2023</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 29, 2023</td>
<td><strong>Lab Module 12</strong> Lab Kits Returned</td>
<td>Review all &quot;Geologic Time and the Fossil Record&quot; Lab Modules and materials covered in Unit 2</td>
<td>Lab Modules for &quot;Unit 2 - Geologic Time and the Fossil Record&quot; closes on November 29, 2023 at 11:00 AM and will not be available for Lab Exam 2</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Complete lab kit contents checklist and package lab kit for return shipment</td>
<td>Lab Exam 2 will open on November 29, 2023 at 11:00 AM</td>
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<td>Mail lab kit to course instructor at Stephen F. Austin State University - use Priority or Expedited Shipping to ensure your lab kit is returned promptly</td>
<td>Lab Exam 2 closes on November 30, 2023 at 11:00 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 29, 2023</td>
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<td>All lab kits must be returned to the Course Instructor by 4:00 PM as listed below to receive credit for Lab Kit Return:</td>
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<td>December 06, 2023 = 100/100 points</td>
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<td>December 08, 2023 = 80/100 points</td>
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<td>December 11, 2023 = 60/100 points</td>
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<td>December 13, 2023 = 40/100 points</td>
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<td>December 15, 2023 = 20/100 points</td>
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