12.001: Introduction to Geology

Rock of the Week Instructions

At the back of the classroom each Monday, there will be a box with 6-10 unknown rocks. The rocks will be numbered and reflect what we are learning in class at the time.

Each student needs to describe one of the rocks in detail, giving information about the rock type, including information in each of these categories:

1. origin, protolith or depositional environment;
2. descriptions of minerals, fossils or inclusions;
3. grain or clast size;
4. sorting, lamination or bedding features;
5. an example of where the rock might have come from.

Overall, you should tell us what type of rock we’re looking at and what distinguishing features identify the rock type.

Write-ups are expected to be about half a page, typed, and are due the next week on Wednesday, giving you over a week to finish the assignment. Rock of week assignments will count, cumulatively, as one lab for the class.

Because there are so many students, we ask that you DO NOT REMOVE the rocks from the classroom. You will have plenty of time to look at them throughout the week before the descriptions are due. The classroom is open to everyone on weekends and every night of the week EXCEPT WEDNESDAYS after 5 pm. Please ask one of the instructors or TAs for the door code.

You are free to discuss the rocks with other students, but you must write up your own description. Only a write-up is required—you will not be presenting your work in class.