

University of Pretoria Yearbook 2025

Sedimentology 253 (GLY 253)

Qualification	Undergraduate
Faculty	Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences
Module credits	24.00
NQF Level	06
Programmes	BSc in Chemistry
	BSc in Chemistry 4-year programme
	BSc in Environmental and Engineering Geology
	BSc in Geology
	BSc in Geology 4-year programme
	BSc in Physics
	BSc in Physics 4-year programme
Prerequisites	CMY 117, CMY 127, GLY 155, GLY 163, and one of WTW 134, WTW 114 or BME 120.
Contact time	4 lectures per week, 2 practicals per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Geology
Period of presentation	Semester 1



Module content

This module introduces the basic principles and concepts of sedimentology. Building on existing knowledge on stratigraphy and mineralogy from the first year, sediments will be followed from their origin (precursor rocks that experienced weathering and erosion) through diverse modes of transport to their final place of deposition on land and in the sea. The formation of sedimentary textures and structures and their interpretation in terms of sedimentary environments, as well as post-depositional diagenetic processes, will be discussed. Furthermore, some economic aspects of sedimentology will be covered, such as placer deposits and conventional and renewable energy sources. Later parts in the course will concentrate on basin-forming processes and provide an overview of modern basin analysis. An introduction to sequence stratigraphy and sedimentary geochemistry will be offered as part of this, both of which are important applications of sedimentology for interpreting sea level variations and climatic changes.

Practical sessions: During the hands-on practicals, participants will learn how to classify rocks using a wide spectrum of different techniques while developing an appreciation of the processes that result in the formation of sediments, sedimentary rocks, and entire sedimentary sequences.

This will include presenting the fundamentals of optical mineralogy and how to examine some of the major minerals that comprise sedimentary rocks in thin sections using transmitted light microscopy. Further aspects of the practical sessions will focus on grain size/sieve analysis and basic statistical analysis. Sedimentary geochemistry will be used to identify the degrees of alteration and help interpret climatic and environmental conditions during the time of sediment emplacement. Furthermore, field data acquisition from sedimentary rocks, interpretation of sedimentary profiles and core logs, and writing of reports and oral presentations will be practiced.

General Academic Regulations and Student Rules

The General Academic Regulations (G Regulations) and General Student Rules apply to all faculties and registered students of the University, as well as all prospective students who have accepted an offer of a place at the University of Pretoria. On registering for a programme, the student bears the responsibility of ensuring that they familiarise themselves with the General Academic Regulations applicable to their registration, as well as the relevant faculty-specific and programme-specific regulations and information as stipulated in the relevant yearbook. Ignorance concerning these regulations will not be accepted as an excuse for any transgression, or basis for an exception to any of the aforementioned regulations. The G Regulations are updated annually and may be amended after the publication of this information.

Regulations, degree requirements and information

The faculty regulations, information on and requirements for the degrees published here are subject to change and may be amended after the publication of this information.

University of Pretoria Programme Qualification Mix (PQM) verification project

The higher education sector has undergone an extensive alignment to the Higher Education Qualification Sub-Framework (HEQSF) across all institutions in South Africa. In order to comply with the HEQSF, all institutions are legally required to participate in a national initiative led by regulatory bodies such as the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET), the Council on Higher Education (CHE), and the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA). The University of Pretoria is presently engaged in an ongoing effort to align its qualifications



and programmes with the HEQSF criteria. Current and prospective students should take note that changes to UP qualification and programme names, may occur as a result of the HEQSF initiative. Students are advised to contact their faculties if they have any questions.