Course Description
GEOL 1303 is a one-semester introductory earth science course for students majoring in a non-science subject area. This course may not be counted toward a degree in Geology or Environmental Sciences. It will not substitute for GEOL 1403 or GEOL 1404. This course counts toward the natural science component of the University Core Curriculum.

Goal of this class is to give you a well-rounded introduction to your home planet, as well as an understanding of natural geologic phenomena. The course will cover origin, composition, and evolution of Earth; basic geologic principles, e.g. plate tectonics; an introduction to geologic phenomena that affect our everyday lives, including earthquakes, volcanism, and mineral resources and global climate change.

Student Learning Outcomes
Upon successful completion of this course, you should be familiar with/demonstrate knowledge of:
- the composition and structure of the solid Earth,
- the theory of Plate Tectonics,
- the various rock types that make up Earth’s crust,
- the internal and external processes that shape our planet,
- the interaction between some of the main components of the Earth System.
- the interdependence of science and technology and their influence on, and contribution to, modern culture.

Evaluation and Grade Assignment
Your final grade will be based on a % curve from the following point distribution:
A) Exams (3@70 points each) 210 points
B) Chapter Quizzes: 5@10 points each 50 points
C) In-classroom exercises 50 points
D) Comprehensive Final Exam 100 points
Total: 410 points

A perfect score in this course would be to earn all 410 points available. There will be no curve at the end of the semester! Final grading will be as follows:

A = 410-369 points  B = 368-328 points  C = 327-287 points  D = 286-246 points  F <246 points
**Extra Credit**
You have two opportunities to earn extra credit points.

1. Turning in your completed score card (handed out at the beginning of the semester) on the day of the final (5 points). This card will help you to keep track of your grades.
2. Points scored on lecture quizzes beyond the 5 quizzes counting towards your grade.

**Exams and Chapter Quizzes**
*Exams* can only be taken during the scheduled time, except in cases of emergencies. You must provide a documented excuse if you wish to make up a missed exam. **There will be NO make-up exams for unexcused absences!** If you need to make up an exam or take an exam early, come see me as soon as possible. Whereas the regular tests will contain multiple-choice questions, make-up exams may not! I have allocated one hour each for the three exams held during the course of the semester. If you feel you will need extra time, please plan on scheduling your exams with the disabilities office. The second hour of class on exam days will be used for lecture and cover new material.

**Chapter Quizzes and in-classroom exercises** happen randomly and help me monitor your progress and regular attendance of the class. Quizzes will consist of a short series of multiple-choice questions to be answered in approximately 5-10 minutes usually at the beginning of the class period. Students who walk in late will not be given an opportunity to answer missed questions. There will be no make-up quizzes or exercises. If you are absent for medical reasons or a University related event, you will be given an opportunity to make up missed work at the end of the semester during the final. It is your responsibility to contact me regarding the make-up of missed quizzes/exercises within a week (and provide documentation). After that you loose your privilege to make up the missed work. Chapter quizzes may include material covered in previous lectures or from the reading assignments. Regular attendance is essential to the successful completion of this course.

**Class Policies**
Treat your co-students (and instructor) with respect. The college catalog contains the university statement on academic integrity. Cheating will not be tolerated and will result in a failing grade in the course and possible further disciplinary action by the university. **The use of cell phones, pagers, mp3 players, headphones and similar electronic devices is not allowed in class.**

**Classroom/professional behavior**
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

**Academic Integrity/Plagiarism**
University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in a failing grade.
**Dropping a Class**
I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with me before you decide to drop to be sure it is the best thing to do. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class.

**Grade Appeals**
As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.

**Disabilities Accommodations**
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Driftwood 101.
If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

**Reading Assignments**
All reading assignments are to be read prior to the class in which the material will be discussed. Your text is accompanied by an online Study Guide, which can assist you in understanding the content of the textbook. It also provides valuable guidelines regarding general study skills, note taking, and test preparation.
The following lecture schedule will be followed as closely as possible although some revisions may become necessary during the semester.

**Important Dates**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 06</td>
<td>Classes begin</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 11</td>
<td>Exam I</td>
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<td>June 21</td>
<td>Exam II</td>
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<td>June 28</td>
<td>Exam III</td>
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<td>July 05</td>
<td>Last day of classes</td>
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<td>July 06</td>
<td>Final exam</td>
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**Lecture Schedule**

**Week 1 – June 04-June 07**
- **Mon**  Introduction, Chapter 1: The Earth in Context
- **Tue**  Chapter 2: The Way the Earth Works: Plate Tectonics
- **Wed**  Chapter 3: Patterns in Nature: Minerals
- **Thu**  Interlude A and Chapter 4: Up from the Inferno: Magma and Igneous Rocks

**Week 2 – June 11-14**
- **Mon**  EXAM I and Chapter 5: The Wrath of Vulcan: Volcanic Eruptions
- **Tue**  Chapter 5: The Wrath of Vulcan: Volcanic Eruptions
- **Wed**  Chapter 6: Pages of Earth’s Past: Sedimentary Rocks
- **Thu**  Chapter 6: Pages of Earth’s Past: Sedimentary Rocks

**Week 3 – June 18-21**
- **Mon**  Chapter 7: Metamorphism: A Process of Change
- **Tue**  Chapter 8: A Violent Pulse: Earthquakes
- **Wed**  Chapter 9: Crustal Deformation and Mountain Building
- **Thu**  EXAM II and Chapter 10: Deep Time: How Old is Old?

**Week 4 – June 25-28**
- **Mon**  Chapter 10: Deep Time: How Old is Old?
- **Tue**  Chapter 12: Riches in Rock: Energy and Mineral Resources
- **Wed**  Chapter 15: Restless Realm: Oceans and Coasts
- **Thu**  Exam III and Chapter 16: A Hidden Reserve: Groundwater

**Week 5 – July 02-July 06**
- **Mon**  Chapter 16: A Hidden Reserve: Groundwater
- **Tue**  Chapter 18: Amazing Ice: Glaciers and Ice Ages
- **Wed**  Chapter 19: Global Change in the Earth System
- **Thu**  Chapter 19: Global Change in the Earth System / Review
- **Fri**  FINAL EXAM