Text: *Physical Geology: The Science of Earth* by Charles Fletcher; Wiley
Class Meetings: Mon through Thu, 10:00 to 11:55 a.m., CS-101
Lab Meetings: Mon through Wed, 12:00 p.m. to 01:50 p.m., CS-226
Office Hours: Mon through Thu 02:00 p.m. to 03:00 p.m. or by appointment.

**Course Description**
This is a course in college-level Physical Geology required for students majoring in Geology or Environmental Science. The class is open to all who have the necessary interest in the study of the internal and surface processes that modify Earth and other planets. The course will cover the origin, classification, and composition of Earth materials, natural geologic processes affecting and shaping our Earth (plate tectonics, earthquakes, volcanoes, global warming etc.), as well as laboratory studies of minerals, rocks, and physiographic and geologic maps.

**Learning Objectives**
Upon successful completion of this course, you should be familiar with:
- 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,
- and the interaction between some of the main components of the Earth System.

**Major Course Requirements:**

**Evaluation and Grade Assignment**
Your final grade will be based on a % curve from the following point distribution:

A) Exams (2@50 points each) 100 points
B) Chapter Quizzes: 5@10 points each: 50 points
C) Final Exam 100 points
D) Labs: 12 assignments/quizzes @10 points each, 2 exams @ 50 points each 220 points

Total: 470 points

A perfect score in this course would be to earn all 470 points available. There may be a curve at the end of the semester. Points scored on lecture quizzes beyond the 5 quizzes counting towards your grade will be added as extra credit.
Final grading will be as follows:

\[ A = 100\%-90\% \quad B = 90\%-80\% \quad C = 80\%-70\% \quad D = 70\%-60\% \quad F <60\% \]

**Exams and Chapter Quizzes**
Exams can only be taken during the scheduled time, except in cases of emergencies. Only documented excuses are acceptable for missing an examination without prior notice. There will be NO make-up exams for unexcused absences! Make-up exams cannot be taken after
the graded test has been returned to the class. Whereas the regular tests will contain multiple-choice questions, make-up exams will not!

**Chapter Quizzes** happen randomly and help me monitor your regular attendance of the class. Quizzes will consist of a short series of multiple-choice questions to be answered on a scantron sheet (provided) in approximately 5-10 minutes generally at the beginning of the class period. Students who walk in late will have less time to answer the questions and may not have a chance to answer some questions. There will be no make-up quizzes. Chapter Quizzes include material covered in previous lectures.

**Class and Lab Policies**
While attendance of the lectures will not be recorded by the instructor on a regular basis, regular attendance is essential to the successful completion of this course. **Regular attendance of the lab sessions is required** and there will be no make-up labs.

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 Corpus Christi Hall, Room 116.

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>July 08</td>
<td>Classes begin</td>
<td>July 31</td>
<td>Lecture Exam II</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 22</td>
<td>Lecture Exam I</td>
<td>August 06</td>
<td>Lab Final Exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 23</td>
<td>Lab Midterm Exam</td>
<td>August 08</td>
<td>Lecture Final Exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 26</td>
<td>Last day to drop a class</td>
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**Lecture Schedule**

**Week 1 – July 08-11**

- **Mon**
  - *Lecture*: Introduction, Chapter 1: Cosmology and the Birth of Earth
  - *Lab*: An Introduction to Geology

- **Tue**
  - *Lecture*: Chapter 2: Journey to the Center of the Earth, Chapter 3: Drifting Continents and Spreading Seas
  - *Lab*: Plate Tectonics

- **Wed**
  - *Lecture*: Chapter 4: The Way the Earth Works: Plate Tectonics
  - *Lab*: Minerals

- **Thu**
  - *Lecture*: Chapter 5: Patterns in Nature: Minerals

**Week 2 – July 15-18**

- **Mon**
  - *Lecture*: Chapter 6: Up from the Inferno: Magma and Igneous Rocks
  - *Lab*: Igneous Rocks

- **Tue**
  - *Lab*: Sediments
        Lab: Sedimentary Rocks
Thu  Lecture: Chapter 8: Metamorphism: A Process of Change

Week 3 – July 22-25
Mon  Lecture: EXAM I
        Lab: Metamorphic Rocks
Tue  Lecture: Chapter 9: The Wrath of Vulcan: Volcanic Eruptions
        Lab: Rocks of Texas
Wed  Lecture: Chapter 10: A Violent Pulse: Earthquakes
        Lab: LAB MIDTERM EXAM
Thu  Lecture: Chapter 11: Crustal Deformation and Mountain Building

Week 4 – July 29 – August 01
Mon  Lecture: Chapter 12: Deep Time: How Old is Old?
        Lab: Topographic Maps
Tue  Lecture: Chapter 18: Restless Realm: Oceans and Coasts
        Lab: Geologic Structures and Maps I
Wed  Lecture: EXAM II
        Lab: Geologic Structures and Maps II
Thu  Lecture: Chapter 19: A Hidden Reserve: Groundwater

Week 5 – August 05-08
Mon  Lecture: Chapter 22: Amazing Ice: Glaciers and Ice Ages
        Lab: Google Earth
Tue  Lecture: Chapter 23: Global Change in the Earth System
        Lab: LAB FINAL EXAM
Wed  Lecture: Chapter 23: Global Change in the Earth System / Review
Thu  Lecture: FINAL EXAM