Text: Earth: An Introduction to Physical Geology, 11th edition, Tarbuck, Lutgens, and Tasa; 2014 AND MasteringGeology (the online platform we will be working with); Pearson
This course will be conducted on Pearson’s MasteringGeology platform. You will find a link to Mastering Geology on your blackboard. You must purchase your access code for MasteringGeology through Pearson (see bundle ISBN above).

Class Meetings: no class meetings; fully online course
Office Hours: If you are a TAMUCC student and would like to speak with me in person please feel free to schedule an appointment with me. Please email questions/concerns to me anytime. I will make an effort to get back with you within 48 hours. Some weekend exclusions may apply.

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.

The goal of this class is to give you a well-rounded introduction to your home planet and an understanding of natural geologic phenomena such as volcanoes and earthquakes. The first half of the course will cover basic geologic principles, e.g. plate tectonics and the rock cycle. During the second half of the semester we will focus on geologic phenomena and topics that affect our everyday lives, including earthquakes, volcanism, fossil fuels, mineral resources and global 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,
- natural hazards,
- geologic resources,
- global change, including climate change,
- 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.

In addition to the content knowledge the course also provides you with basic core competencies such as:
- critical thinking, e.g. when approaching topics using the scientific method
- problem solving
- Empirical and quantitative skills when working with numeral data, reading graphs etc.

Please always remember that you are the one responsible for your success. This is particularly true for an online course. Without self-discipline and perseverance you may not be able to successfully complete this course. I will do my best to guide you in your learning process but without YOU assuming an active role, by completing work ON TIME (NO late work will be accepted), utilizing extra material offered to you, asking questions, making use of help offered
(e.g. SI sessions if you are a local TAMUCC student and can come to campus) etc. you may not successfully pass this course.

**Evaluation and Grade Assignment**

Your final grade will be based on a % curve from the following point distribution:

For each unit covered

a) Reading Questions 15 points  
b) Quiz/Quizzes 25 points  
c) Coaching activities 30 points

Total points achievable per unit: 70 points

Point distribution per unit may vary depending on content and structure of the unit. In other words, some units may only require you to complete one coaching activity, others may contain three. The overall total will be 70 points per unit, though. Exceptions may apply, e.g. for long units.

Comprehensive Final: 100 points

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

A = 90-100%  
B = 80-90%  
C = 70-80%  
D = 60-70%  
F <60% of the total points

**Extra Credit**

No extra credit opportunities are planned for this course at this time. If an opportunity arises during the semester, you will be given instructions then.

**Quizzes, Coaching Activities, Final etc.**

As this is a fully online course, it is your responsibility to observe posted deadlines! **No deadlines will be extended and therefore no late work accepted!** In general, you will be given approximately one week of study time per two units. You can work at your own pace within that time frame. Just be sure to not overlook any deadlines. The final is scheduled for a specific time: **August 7, 2014 from 9 to 11:30 am (Central time).** Please make arrangements well in advance to ensure that you will be available at that time.

**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.) Cheating will not be tolerated and will result in a failing grade in the course and possible further disciplinary action by the university.

**Notice to Students with Disabilities and Veterans**

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you suspect that you may have a disability (physical impairment, learning disability, psychiatric disability, etc.), please contact the Services for Students with Disabilities Office, located in Corpus Christi Hall (CCH) 116, at 825-5816. If you need disability accommodations in this class, please see me as soon as possible.

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.

**Academic Advising**

The College of Science and Engineering requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Academic Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, a faculty mentor, and the department chair. The College's
Academic Advising Center is located in Center for Instructions CI 350, and can be reached at 825-6094.

**Grade Appeal Process**

As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures, 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 Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules website at http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html, and the College of Science and Engineering Grade Appeals webpage (http://sci.tamucc.edu/students/GradeAppeal.html). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the chair or director of the appropriate department or school, the Office of the College of Science and Engineering Dean, or the Office of the Provost.

**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 completion of work WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. **July 25, 2014** is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

**Important Dates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 7</td>
<td>Semester begins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 07</td>
<td>Final exam (09:00-11:30 am)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Course Outline**

At the beginning of each unit you will be receiving detailed instructions outlining the assignments, supplemental material you will be required to work on etc. These guidelines are meant to keep you on track and ensure that you do not overlook any work that needs to be completed.

**Unit 1: Introduction to Mastering Platform and the Science of Geology**

**Unit 2: Plate Tectonics**

**Unit 3: Matter and Minerals**

**Unit 4: Magma, Igneous Rocks, and Intrusive Activity**

**Unit 5: Volcanoes and Volcanic Hazards**

**Unit 6: Weathering and Soils and Sedimentary Rocks**

**Unit 7: Metamorphism and Metamorphic Rocks**
Unit 8: Crustal Deformation

Unit 9: Earthquakes and Earthquake Hazards

Unit 10: Energy and Mineral Resources

Unit 11: Global Climate Change

August 7, 2014: 9 to 11:30 am Central Time): Comprehensive Final