ISBN: 978-0-393-91939-4
or other suitable Physical Geology text

Class Meetings: Tue/Thu, 03:30 to 04:45 p.m., CS 101
Office Hours: Tue/Thu 11:00 am to noon and 2:00 to 3:00 pm, Mon 11:00 am to noon or by appointment. *I encourage you to email me with any questions or concerns you may have (see email address listed above).*

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. The first half of the course covers basic geologic principles, e.g. plate tectonics and the rock cycle, as well as geologic phenomena, including earthquakes and volcanism. During the second half of the semester we will focus on topics related to human dependency on Earth for geologic resources, such as petroleum, as well as global change, including 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,
- natural hazards,
- geologic resources (with special emphasis on energy 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 by working collaboratively in teams
- communication skills, e.g. when presenting some of your work to the class verbally or turning in written assignments.
- Empirical and quantitative skills when working with numeral data, reading graphs etc.

*Please always remember that you are the one responsible for your success. I will do my best to guide you in your learning process but without YOU assuming an active role, by completing work, studying outside of class time, asking questions, making use of help offered (e.g. we have a SI-leader (supplemental instruction) assigned to this class) 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:

A) Exams (3@80 points each) 240 points
B) Chapter Quizzes: 5@10 points each 50 points
C) In-classroom exercises 50 points
D) Comprehensive Final Exam 100 points
Total: 440 points

A perfect score in this course would be to earn all 440 points available. There will be no curve at the end of the semester! Final grading will be as follows:
A = 440-396 points  B = 395-352 points  C = 351-308 points  D = 307-264 points  F <264 points

Extra Credit Opportunities
You have four opportunities to earn extra credit points.
1. Turn in your completed score card (posted on blackboard) on the day of the final (5 points). This card will help you to keep track of your grades. Record your grades regularly!
2. Points scored on lecture quizzes beyond the 5 quizzes counting towards your grade.
3. Presenting a current geologic event to the class (“Geology in the News”) or (if available) attend a geologic presentation (e.g. the HRI lecture series) and write a one-page summary—up to 10 points. You may only do this for EC once.
4. Submit (to the instructor) an online resources for the class from the following areas:
   a. Best content/teaching tool
   b. Best study tool
   c. Best visualization

   If accepted you can receive 5 points extra credit for your submission. You can turn in online resources twice, so earn up to 10 points extra credit.

Exams, Chapter Quizzes, and In-classroom Exercises
The grade you will receive for this course is based on your performance on exams, quizzes and exercises. Missing any of these opportunities to collect points towards your point total will most likely affect your grade. So: attend class!! If you miss an exam (which includes anyone walking in more than 15 minutes late on the day of an exam!) you will be given the opportunity to make up this exam on the day of the final (after you have taken the final). It is your responsibility to contact me within one week of missing an exam to let me know that you wish to make up the exam. You loose the privilege of making up an exam if you fail to notify me during this time period.

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 come to class late need to wait outside the classroom until the class has completed the quiz and may not make up the missed quiz at a later time. If you are absent for medical reasons or a University related event, you will be given an opportunity to make up missed quizzes at the end of the semester after the final. Missed exercises should be made up as soon as you return to class. You will receive a point deduction for late exercises, unless you have an excused absence. Again, it is your responsibility to contact me regarding the make-up of missed quizzes/exercises within a week (and provide documentation). After that you lose your privilege to make up the missed work. Chapter quizzes may include material covered in previous lectures or from the reading assignments.

Classroom/Professional Behavior/Civility
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.

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has a diverse student population that represents the population of the state. Our goal is to provide you with a high quality educational experience that is free from repression. You are responsible for following the rules of the University, city, state and federal government. We expect that you will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

**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**

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 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.

**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.

Please meet with the academic advisor in your major regularly.

**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](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](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.

**Statement of Academic Continuity**

In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University—Corpus Christi; this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites,
and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.

**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. **November 7, 2014** is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

**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**

| August 28 | First class |
| Oct 16 | Exam 2 |
| Nov 11 | Exam 3 |
| Nov 27 | Thanksgiving holiday |
| Dec 09 | Final exam (01:45-04:15 pm) |

**Lecture Schedule**

**August**

- Thu 08/28 Introduction / And Just What is Geology?, Prelude

**September**

- Tue 09/02 Chapter 1: The Earth in Context
- Thu 09/04 Chapter 1: The Earth in Context cont.
- Tue 09/09 Chapter 2: The Way Earth Works: Plate Tectonics
- Thu 09/11 Chapter 2 cont.
- Tue 09/16 Chapter 2 cont., Chapter 8: A Violent Pulse: Earthquakes, Int. D
- Thu 09/18 Chapter 8 cont.
- Tue 09/23 EXAM 1
- Thu 09/25 Chapter 3: Patterns in Nature: Minerals
- Tue 09/30 Chapter 3 cont.

**October**

- Thu 10/02 Chapter 4: Up from the Inferno: Magma and Igneous Rocks, Int. A
- Tue 10/07 Chapter 4 cont.
- Thu 10/09 Chapter 4 cont., Chapter 5: The Wrath of Vulcan: Volcanic Eruptions
- Tue 10/14 Chapter 5 cont.
- Thu 10/16 EXAM 2
- Tue 10/21 Chapter 6: Pages of Earth’s Past: Sedimentary Rocks, Int. B
- Thu 10/23 Chapter 6 cont.
- Tue 10/28 Chapter 7: Metamorphism: A Process of Change, Int. C
- Thu 10/30 Chapter 7 cont., Geology of Texas (includes parts of Ch. 9 and 10)

**November**

- Tue 11/04 Geology of Texas cont.
- Thu 11/06 Geology of Texas cont.
Tue 11/11 EXAM 3
Thu 11/13 Chapter 12: Riches in Rock: Energy and Mineral Resources
Tue 11/18 Chapter 12 cont.
Thu 11/20 Chapter 12 cont.; Chapter 19: Global Change in the Earth System
Tue 11/25 Chapter 19 cont.
Thu 11/27 Thanksgiving holiday, no classes

December
Tue 12/02 Chapter 19 cont., review (last day of class)
Thu 12/09 Comprehensive final exam (01:45-04:15 pm)

Drafting Supplies
Some basic drafting supplies will be required for this class (see below). Please bring these items with you to each lecture.

Mechanical pencil, lead size of 0.5 mm or finer Eraser
Colored pencils (six colors) 12” ruler with mm markings