TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY – CORPUS CHRISTI
COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

GEOLOGY 1303.W1 – ESSENTIALS OF GEOLOGY
Department of Physical and Environmental Sciences

SUMMER I SEMESTER 2015

Course Information
Course number/section: GEOL 1303.W01
Class meeting time: fully online course
Class location: NA

Instructor Information
Instructor: Dr. Tania-Maria Anders
Office location: not available
Office Hours: Per email. 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.
Telephone: not available
E-mail: tania.anders@tamucc.edu

Required texts/material
Textbook: Earth: An Introduction to Physical Geology, 11th edition, Tarbuck, Lutgens, and Tasa; 2014 AND MasteringGeology (the online platform we will be working with); Pearson Package: ISBN: 0321955331

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).

Course Description
Catalog Course Description:
One-semester introductory earth science course for students majoring in a non-science subject area. Basic geologic material and concepts, such as minerals, rocks, the rock cycle, and plate tectonics theory. Origin, composition, and evolution of our planet, as well as geologic phenomena that affect everyday life, including global change, earthquakes, volcanism, groundwater and mineral resources. May not be counted toward a degree in Geology or Environmental Sciences. Will not substitute for GEOL 1403. This course counts toward the natural science component of the University Core Curriculum Programs.

Extended Course Description:
Goal of this course is to give you a well-rounded introduction to your home planet including an understanding of natural geologic phenomena and geologic resources. 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. Given the course location of Scotland, examples of the local geology will be embedded into course material as often as possible.
Prerequisites and Co-requisites

None

Student Learning Outcomes and Assessment

Upon successful completion of this course, you should be familiar with / demonstrate knowledge of:

1. the composition and structure of the solid Earth,
2. the theory of Plate Tectonics,
3. the various rock types that make up Earth’s crust,
4. the internal and external processes that shape our planet,
5. the interaction between some of the main components of the Earth System,
6. 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:

1. critical thinking, e.g. when approaching topics using the scientific method
2. problem solving by working collaboratively in teams
3. communication skills, e.g. when presenting some of your work to the class verbally or turning in writing assignments.
4. 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 etc. you may not successfully pass this course.

Instructional Methods and Activities

This is a fully online course. It is essential that you motivate and push yourself to work on the course material regularly, just like you would if this was a face-to-face course. Invest time EVERY DAY for this course. Without self-discipline and perseverance you may not be able to successfully complete this course.

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

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 chapter: 70 points

Point distribution per unit will 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 always be 70 points per unit, though.

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.

Course Policies

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 to three units. You can work at your own pace within that time frame. Just be sure to not overlook any deadlines. The comprehensive final is scheduled for a specific day: July 1, 2015 and will be available from 6 am to 6 pm (Central time). Please make arrangements well in advance to ensure that you will be available to take the final that day. You have 90 minutes to complete the final once you start.

Please keep in mind that Summer semesters are shorter than regular Spring/Fall semesters and are therefore much faster paced. In order to not fall behind/feel overwhelmed you MUST work on the course material daily. During summer semesters, face-to-face courses meet for two hours daily M-Th. Keep that in mind as you plan your time commitment for this course. A time investment of two to three hours daily should keep you on track. Some of you will need more time. YOU know yourself best! Plan study time according to your personal needs. I highly recommend reviewing the instructions I will post for each unit prior to the study of the units. I highlight which topics are crucial, which additional resources should be utilized (e.g. videos) etc. in these instructions.

Technical Support and Requirements

- IOL Helpdesk contact information: (361) 825-2825 or via email to iol.support@tamucc.edu
- Computer requirements: To prepare your computer for using Blackboard 9.1, go to https://iol.tamucc.edu/techreq.php
- Blackboard tutorials and help links are available for you to use
- Additional software requirements:
  - PDF files require Adobe Reader - Download at: http://get.adobe.com/reader/
  - Files from sites such as You Tube might require flash - Download at: http://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/

Academic Resources

- Library resources (Bell Library, TAMUCC campus)
- Student Handbook http://falcon.tamucc.edu/~students/handbook.html
- Study Guides and Strategies http://www.studygs.net/
- Center for Academic Achievement (CASA) - 361-825-5933
- Tutoring services http://casa.tamucc.edu/tutoring.php
- Writing assistance http://casa.tamucc.edu/wc.php
- Supplemental instruction: http://casa.tamucc.edu/si.php

College and University Policies

Academic Integrity
It is expected that university students will demonstrate a high level of maturity, self-direction, and ability to manage their own affairs. Students are viewed as individuals who possess the qualities of worth, dignity, and the capacity for self-direction in personal behavior. 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, posting material developed by the faculty (e.g. exams) in any form including electronic, 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.
Professional Behavior/Civility
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.

Notice to Students with Disabilities and Veterans
Disability Services (DS) is the hub for coordinating services and accommodations to ensure accessibility and utilization of all programs for all Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi students with disabilities. Our services are designed to meet the unique educational needs of enrolled students with documented permanent or temporary disabilities. DS provides intake and consultation services to students seeking to register with our office. DS reviews an individual’s documentation of disability and assesses eligibility for services and the determination of reasonable accommodations. For more information visit the Disability Services Office at 116 Corpus Christi Hall or go to http://disabilityservices.tamucc.edu/

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 825-3928.

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.

Statement of Academic Continuity
In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. 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 Course**

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. **June 19, 2015** is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

**General Disclaimer**

I reserve the right to modify the information, schedule, assignments, deadlines, and course policies in this syllabus if and when necessary. I will announce such changes in a timely manner during regular scheduled lecture periods.

**Course Outline**

At the beginning of each unit you will be receiving detailed instructions outlining the assignments and supplemental material you will be required to work on. These guidelines are meant to keep you on track and ensure that you do not overlook any work that needs to be completed. I would like to emphasis again: be sure to invest a minimum of **two to three hours daily** for this course! Summer semesters are high-paced!!

**June 1-7:**
- Unit 1: Introduction to Mastering Platform and the Science of Geology
- Unit 2: Plate Tectonics
- Unit 3: Matter and Minerals

**June 8-14:**
- Unit 4: Magma, Igneous Rocks, and Intrusive Activity
- Unit 5: Volcanoes and Volcanic Hazards

**June 15-21:**
- Unit 6: Weathering and Soils and Sedimentary Rocks
- Unit 7: Metamorphism and Metamorphic Rocks
- Unit 8: Crustal Deformation

**June 22- June 28:**
- Unit 9: Earthquakes and Earthquake Hazards
- Unit 10: Energy and Mineral Resources

**June 28-30:**
- Unit 11: Global Climate Change

**July 1, 2015:**
- Comprehensive Final