GEOL 1401 (Section 52400), Spring 2018

El Centro College
Dallas County Community College District

Instructor Information
Name: Nancy Fields
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Office Location: A550
Office Hours: N/A during Winterterm

Course Information
Course Title: Earth Science
Course & Section Number: GEOL 1401, Section 53400
Semester/Year: Spring 2018 (Dec. 8 – Jan. 7 (5 weeks))
Credit Hours: 4
Class Meeting Time/Location: Online

Course Description
The Texas Academic Course Guide Manual (ACGM) lists GEOL 1401 as, “Survey of physical and historical geology, astronomy, meteorology, oceanography, and related sciences.” This course is for the non-science major. It covers the interaction of the earth sciences and the physical world. Physical and historical geology, oceanography, and meteorology are included. Emphasis is placed on a better understanding of earth processes and man. Coordinating Board Academic Approval Number: 40.0601.51 03

Course Prerequisites
Developmental Reading 0093 or English as a Second Language (ESOL) 0044 or have met the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) standard in reading.

Statement of Purpose and Core Objectives
Statement of Purpose
Through the Texas Core Curriculum, students will gain a foundation of knowledge of human cultures and the physical and natural world, develop principles of personal and social responsibility for living in a diverse world, and advance intellectual and practical skills that are essential for all learning.

Core Objectives
This course supports, develops, and assesses the following Core Objectives:
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A. Critical Thinking Skills (CT) - creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
B. Communication Skills (COM) - effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication
C. Empirical and Quantitative Skills (EQS) - manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions
D. Teamwork (TW) - ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)
Learning Outcomes are based on the Core Objectives above. Students will be able to:

Lecture Objectives
1. Explain the current theories concerning the origin of the Universe and of the Solar System.
2. Explain the place of Earth in the Solar System and its relationships with other objects in the Solar System.
3. Relate the origin and evolution of Earth’s internal structures to its resulting geologic systems, including Earth materials and plate tectonic activities.
4. Explain the operation of Earth’s geologic systems and the interactions among the atmosphere, the geosphere, and the hydrosphere, including meteorology and oceanography.
5. Explain the history of the Earth including the evolution of earth systems and life forms.

Lab Objectives
1. Classify rocks and minerals based on chemical composition, physical properties, and origin.
2. Apply knowledge of topographic maps, diagrams, and/or photographs to identify landforms and explain the processes that created them.
3. Differentiate the types of plate boundaries, explain the processes that occur at each and identify associated structural features on maps, block diagrams and cross sections.
4. Apply relative and numerical age-dating techniques to construct geologic histories.
5. Measure atmospheric processes that affect weather and climate.
6. Describe the composition and motion of ocean water and analyze the factors controlling both.
7. Compare properties and motions of objects in the solar system.
8. Demonstrate the collection, analysis, and reporting of data.
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About the Syllabus
Please read the following thoroughly. Your syllabus is the most important document you will receive in this class and you are responsible for knowing all the information in this document. Your grade in this course is dependent on your knowledge of this information. I highly suggest that you print a copy of the syllabus and keep it with you.

Required Course Materials
None – all materials and course content are provided for free.
*There is one lab in which a few materials are needed...but you likely already have these things at home (2 small water bottles or glass containers, salt, food coloring, hot and cold water, measuring cup).

Grading Policy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>% of Overall Grade</th>
<th>Point Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Syllabus quiz</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 exams @ 100 points each</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 discussion boards @ 15 pts each</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 labs @ 30 pts each</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Extra credit quizzes (20 extra points possible)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Course Total Points = 780

Grade Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Total Points</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100%</td>
<td>702-780</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-89%</td>
<td>624-701</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-79%</td>
<td>546-623</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-69%</td>
<td>468-545</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-59%</td>
<td>0-467</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Exams and Assignments

Syllabus Quiz
This is a quiz that covers the information in the GEOL 1401 Earth Science syllabus.
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Reading Assignments
Typically, there are four-five lessons to read per week. This is designed to provide the student with an understanding of the course information.

Exams
There are four exams that you will need to take using Respondus software (further information about Respondus can be found in the course in eCampus under the “Start Here” link). Each exam is worth 100 points (50 multiple choice/true-false questions worth 2 points each). The exams are available from the first day of class, and you are welcome to work ahead. They will not be accessible after the deadline has passed for each exam.

You will have 1 hour to take each exam. Once you open the exam, be prepared to complete it. If you take half the exam and then log off, you will NOT be able to finish the test. You have to know the material before attempting the test. **No supplementary supplies are allowed, and all exams are considered closed-book!**

In order to improve test security, **once an exam has been taken, you will not be able to access the exam again to find out which questions you answered correctly and incorrectly.** For this reason, I do not give a comprehensive final exam. Please do not ask me which questions you got wrong.

Discussion Board
There are four discussion questions posted within the course in eCampus. You will respond to the question posted, as well as respond to other student’s responses. Each discussion question is worth 15 points.

Labs
There are 10 lab assignments to complete throughout the semester within eCampus worth 30 points each. Labs can be found within certain lessons depending on the topic. Each lab should take approximately 1-3 hours to complete, depending on the lab.

**Deadlines for Labs are Sundays by Midnight (11:59 PM).** For most weeks, I will post grades and the answer guides to the labs by the following Sunday after the due date.

**Location of labs:**
Labs 1 through 6 are located within Unit 1: Geology
Lab 7 is located within Unit 2: Oceanography & Hydrology
Labs 8 and 9 are located in Unit 3: Meteorology
Lab 10 is located within Unit 4: Astronomy
Accessing Your Grades

After the deadline for an assignment, I will have your grades posted usually within a week. (If you turn it in early, that is fine, just know that I may not have it posted until a week after the deadline for that particular assignment.)

Course Policies

Attendance Policy
This is a 100% online course. Therefore, you will not be required to attend a conventional classroom at a set time on set days. You are free to schedule your class time any way you wish, but you are responsible for keeping up with the lecture and lab activities. This is a serious college-level science course, so manage your time wisely. I have Sundays at Midnight (11:59 PM) as the deadline for turning in most assignments (other than the last weeks’ assignments). All due dates are final, so do not put everything off to the last minute!

Note: In order to be certified in this class, you must submit at least 1 assignment (participate in the “Introduction” discussion board, syllabus quiz, lab, for example) by the Certification Date of the semester.

Late Work Policy
I have high expectations for all my students and expect everyone to respect the deadlines. Although this is an online course, there are deadlines to meet each week: every Sunday by Midnight (11:59 PM), except for the last exam. I would highly advise that you work ahead of the schedule I have listed.

I will only allow students to make up work in extreme circumstances (severe illness, death of a family member, etc.), but you must contact me BEFORE the deadline or it will be too late, no matter what the excuse is. There are no exceptions to this rule. Once the deadline has passed for each module, then you will likely not be able to access the assignments and exam within that module, no matter the excuse.

If you think you will be unable to access eCampus on certain weeks, please work ahead, as it is unacceptable to ask for deadline extensions if you plan on travelling, or if anticipated work-related travel is required. If missing assignments accumulate due to extenuating circumstances and you cannot work ahead, you will be advised to drop the course rather than taking a failing grade.

Extra Credit Policy
The only “extra credit” available for this course are the extra credit reading quizzes. There are 4 short quizzes worth a total of 20 points. There is no time-limit to take these. These are taken within eCampus in the course work lessons.
I also consider who participates in the Discussion Board beyond the Discussion Questions that are required most weeks. "Participation" could be as simple as posting something you learned that week in Earth Science. It could also include any question you have about the material covered in your readings or labs, as well as responding to and/or answering another student’s question. Participating in the Discussion Board could make the difference in a letter grade especially if you are close to the next letter grade.

**Student Responsibility**
This is college and you are responsible for your grade. You also bear the full responsibility for reading (and viewing videos of) all required course material located in eCampus. Your failure to read all required information can – and frequently does – result in disaster.

**Withdrawal Policy**
The last day to withdraw from this class without a grade is **Friday, Dec. 22, 2017, by 5:00 PM in the Registrar’s Office (A130)**. Failure to withdraw from a course will result in a performance grade (F, in more instances than not.)

**Important Information Recap**
- All assignments are available the first day of class, and the student is highly encouraged to work ahead.
- All assignments are due Sundays by Midnight (11:59 PM).
- If you need an extension for an assignment, you need to request it BEFORE the deadline.
- All exams are timed. If you believe you do not need to study and will have time to look up all the answers as you are taking them, you will have a difficult time passing them and this course.

**Internet Access**
- I recognize that Internet connection problems and/or computer trouble do occur from time to time, but these are not valid excuses for failing to complete the work on time. For those that live in the Dallas area, the campus computing center on the 4th floor is open during regular campus hours.
- When taking exams, I realize there may be a time that I will have to reset your exam, because your computer shuts down or internet connection freezes. Please be aware of my exam policy: I will gladly reset your exam 2 times, if necessary, but after that, your score will be reduced by 50% if you ask me to reset it. This is 2 exam resets the entire semester, not 2 resets per exam. You need to be prepared to take the exams. Please know that if I reset an exam for you that you
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will receive a completely different exam with different questions than what you had before. I use a very large test bank, so even if you are sitting next to a friend taking the same exam, you will not have the same questions.

- Do not wait until the last few hours of the last day to take an exam. You need to give yourself plenty of time just in-case you need to email me due to a problem. Please understand if you need an exam reset during the last few hours before the due date of an exam, you may not receive it.

Academic Ethics

Any violation of the Student Code of Conduct (as printed in the El Centro College Catalogue and available at http://www1.dcccd.edu/catalog/about/standard.cfm) will be penalized accordingly. All violations will be forwarded to the proper college authorities for review. The college may, at its discretion, impose additional penalties on the student including academic probation, suspension, or expulsion.

All labs, research paper, other assignments must be the product of the student’s own personal effort. Same/similar wording on two or more student’s labs or other assignments (for questions that are short answer or essay style) can be considered as evidence of dishonesty and all labs/assignments involved can receive a score of zero.

If in grading labs I have reason to suspect cheating and/or collusion, proving innocence is the student’s responsibility, and all involved students – if collusion is proven – will receive a zero (0) on that assignment. I will report the violation immediately and encourage the appropriate authorities to pursue the offense with all due vigor. Be aware that in instances of academic dishonesty, I am relentless and unyielding. Do not give me reason to think you may have committed such an act.

Institutional Policies

Institutional Policies relating to this course can be accessed from the following link: www.elcentrocollege.edu/syllabipolicies

Disclaimer Reserving Right to Change Syllabus

The instructor reserves the right to amend this syllabus as necessary. Provisions contained in this Syllabus do not constitute a contract between the Student and El Centro College. These provisions may be changed at the discretion of the Discipline Coordinator/Instructor. When necessary, appropriate notice of such changes will be given to the Student. The Instructor-of-Record may provide additional information to enhance the course to meet the needs of the enrolled students provided that the enhancements do not conflict with the official course syllabus.
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Lecture & Lab Schedule
Assignments are due by Sundays, Midnight (11:59 PM)
Below are the due dates for various assignments, labs, and the dates during which you must take your exams. I encourage you to note these various dates in your smartphone, day planner, or any other format in which you keep track of important dates.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week beginning</th>
<th>Assignments to complete during the week</th>
<th>Lab Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 8 &amp; 10</td>
<td>Complete Syllabus Quiz Complete Introduction Discussion Board Complete Lesson 1 Introduction to Earth Science Complete Lesson 2 Minerals Complete Lesson 3 Rocks Complete Lesson 4 Inside Earth and Plate Tectonics Complete Lesson 5 Earthquakes Complete Lesson 6 Volcanoes Complete Discussion Board 1</td>
<td>Complete Lab 1 Scientific Method Complete Lab 2 Minerals Complete Lab 3 Rocks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 17</td>
<td>Complete Lesson 7 Numerical and Relative Ages Complete Lesson 8 Earth’s History <strong>Take Exam 1 by Dec. 17</strong> Complete Lessons 9-12 Earth’s Fresh Water Complete Lessons 13-15 Earth’s Oceans <strong>Take Exam 2 by Dec. 24</strong> Complete Discussion Board 2</td>
<td>Complete Lab 4 Plate Tectonics Complete Lab 5 Numerical and Relative Ages Complete Lab 6 Topographic Maps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 24</td>
<td>Complete Lessons 16-17 Earth’s Atmosphere Complete Lessons 18-21 Air Movement, Weather, and Storms <strong>Take Exam 3 by Dec. 31</strong> Complete Discussion Board 3</td>
<td>Complete Lab 7 Composition and Motion of Ocean Water Complete Lab 8 Atmospheric Processes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 31 &amp; Jan. 7 (last day of class)</td>
<td>Complete Lessons 22-25 Earth, Moon, and Sun Complete Lessons 26-29 The Solar System <strong>Take Exam 4 by January 7</strong> Complete Discussion Board 4</td>
<td>Complete Lab 9 Weather Complete Lab 10 Properties and Motions of Objects in the Solar System</td>
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