GEOL 1401 (51001), Fall 2020

El Centro College
Dallas County Community College District

Lecture Instructor Information
Name: Nancy Fields
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Email: nfields@dcccd.edu *please include your first and last name, section number, and detailed subject line related to email content in the subject line when emailing me
Office Location: A-550
Office Hours: M 9-9:30 a.m., 12:30-2:10 p.m.; T 9-9:30 a.m, 12:30-2:10 p.m.; W 1:30-2:10

Course Information
Course Title: Earth Science
Course & Section Number: GEOL 1401, Section 53001
Semester/Year: Fall 2020
Credit Hours: 4
Class Meeting Time/Location: Lecture: MW 9:30-10:50 AM in A722; Lab: MW 11-12:20 PM in A731

Course Description
The Texas Academic Course Guide Manual (ACGM) lists GEOL 1401 as, “Survey of geology, meteorology, oceanography, and astronomy.” 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:
GEOL 1401 (51001), Fall 2020

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.
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.

Required Course Materials

IMPORTANT: Your learning materials for this course are being provided to you at no cost.

This course is part of the Dallas College called IncludED. Your Mastering Geology access code and eTextbooks will be provided to you free of charge.

Supplies: You must have: Four (4) – 882 scantrons. LAB EXERCISES NEED TO BE CARRIED OUT IN PENCIL. It is highly recommended that students keep a lab 3-ring binder to organize all lecture and lab materials.

Grading Policy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>% of Overall Grade</th>
<th>Point Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4 Tests</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mastering activities</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Activities</td>
<td>8.5%</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 Lab exercises</td>
<td>25.5%</td>
<td>255</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Lab Practical Test</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Project/Paper</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Extra credit quizzes and First Day Introduction (30 extra points possible)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Course Total Points = 1000

Grade Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Total Points</th>
<th>Grade Score</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>90-100%</td>
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<td>90-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-89%</td>
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</tr>
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<td>60-69%</td>
<td>600-699</td>
<td>60-69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-59%</td>
<td>0-599</td>
<td>0-59</td>
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</tbody>
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*Note: You will no longer receive an actual letter grade, but you will receive a numeric grade per the updated grading system by DCCCD.*
GEOL 1401 (51001), Fall 2020

Tests and Assignments

Reading Assignments
There are a total of 19 chapters, which vary in amount, as you may not need to read the entire chapter. This is designed to provide the student with an understanding of the course information.

Tests
There are four (4) tests that you will need to take consisting of multiple-choice and true-false questions. All tests are given in the Assessment Center except the last test, which is required to be given in class. There is NO comprehensive final. *No make-up tests unless prior arrangements are made with the instructor, no matter the excuse. You must either leave me a voice message at 214-860-2429 or email at nfields@dcccd.edu

Mastering Assignments
There are Mastering Geology assignments that you will need to complete through the Mastering Geology website located in the link in our course in eCampus that will vary in points and type of assignment. They are designed for long-term retention of the concepts covered in the course with some activities and videos. *For each day you complete a Mastering assignment beyond the due date, there is a 10% late penalty for each assignment. Listed below are the required Mastering assignments:

- For each chapter you will need to complete a short chapter reading quiz (10 points each).
- There are four (4) “Homework Assignments” for Chapters 2, 3, 7 and 11 that vary in points (between 10-20 points for each homework assignment).
- There are four (4) “Dynamic Study Modules” for Chapters 4, 15, 18, and 22 that are worth 20 points each.

Activities
You will have the opportunity to complete 4 short activities that are designed to provide the student with a further understanding of a topic area (1 per module). Activities vary in points.

Labs
There are 13 lab assignments to complete throughout the semester. In order to receive credit for each lab, you will need to complete the labs in-class. If you cannot attend lab, you may make-up the lab, but will only receive half-credit. This make-up can be used a maximum of 6 times (3 labs), after the 6th absence, you will not receive any points for the lab. Lab grades are based on effort and accuracy. You will be working in groups for labs, but each student must submit their own individual labs to the instructor, as labs answers must be the product of your own personal effort. Each lab should take approximately 1-2 hours to complete, depending on the lab. Most labs are worth 20 points each.
**GEOL 1401 (51001), Fall 2020**

**Lab Practical Test** – You will be given a mineral and rock identification test during lab time that is worth 50 points.

**Research Project/Paper**
You will be working on a project for the semester in which the final product is a research paper/project worth 100 points. You will need to view and adhere to the directions and grading rubric for this assignment in order to successfully complete it. There is a 5-point deduction for each day submitted past the final due date.

If you plagiarize more than 60% of your paper, you will receive a failing grade for it (depending on the level of plagiarism). If you plagiarize more than 90% of your paper, you will receive a zero (0).

**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:**
Attendance is very important. You are required to attend both lectures and labs. It is unlikely you will succeed in this course without consistent attendance.

“You are expected to attend regularly all classes in which you enroll. You have the responsibility to attend class and to consult with the instructor when an absence occurs.” See the DCCCD catalog for more details.

**Note:** In order to be certified in this class, you must submit at least 1 assignment by the Certification Date for this class, which is Saturday, September 5 by 9 PM.

**Extra Credit Policy**
Some “extra credit” is available for this course There are 4 short reading quizzes worth 5 points each totaling 20 points. There is no time-limit to take these. These are taken within eCampus in the course work lessons. There is also the First Day “Introduction” worth 10 points.

**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 a class without a grade is **Thursday, November 12, 2020, 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.)

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](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 assignments must be the product of the student’s own personal effort. Same/similar wording on two or more student’s 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 you have more than a couple of questions with the exact same wording as another student for essay-style questions, that is not acceptable. Graphs and tables for labs cannot be the same as another student.

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](http://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.