Course Syllabus

Instructor Information
Name: Bethan Salle
Telephone: 214-860-2734
Email: bsalle@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-557
Office Hours: TBA

Course Information
Course Title: Earth Science
Course & Section Number: GEOL 1401, Section 51401
Semester/Year: Fall 2020
Credit Hours: 4
Class Meeting Time/Location: Lecture: Online; Lab: Online

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:
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. I highly suggest that you print a copy of the syllabus and keep it with you.
**Required Course Materials**
*(Book Details TBA)*

**Important:** Students who are part of the IncludED program do not need to purchase any learning materials unless directed by the instructor.

**Grading Policy – Subject to change**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>% of Overall Grade</th>
<th>Point Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Syllabus quiz</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Module Tests @ 40 points each</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mastering activities (vary in points)</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Activities (25 points each)</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Discussion boards (20 points each)</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 Lab exercises (vary in points)</td>
<td>25.5%</td>
<td>255</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Project/Paper</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Extra credit quizzes &amp; Introduction Discussion</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(30 extra points possible)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Course Total Points = 1000**

**Grade Scale**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Points</th>
<th>Grade Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>900-1000</td>
<td>90-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>800-899</td>
<td>80-89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>700-799</td>
<td>70-79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>600-699</td>
<td>60-69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-599</td>
<td>0-59</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: You will no longer receive an actual letter grade, but you will receive a numeric grade per the updated grading system by DCCCD.*

**Exams and Assignments**

**Syllabus Quiz**
The syllabus quiz covers the information in the GEOL 1401 Earth Science syllabus. It is worth 30 points.
Reading Assignments
There are a total of 19 chapters, which vary in amount, as you may not need to read the entire chapter in each module. This is designed to provide the student with an understanding of the course information.

Tests
There are five (5) tests 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. The link for Respondus is: https://www.respondus.com/lockdown/download.php?id=646535357
Each test is worth 40 points (20 multiple choice/true-false questions worth 2 points each). The tests 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 test.

In order to access the module tests, be sure you have downloaded Respondus, and you will access them through the Respondus Lockdown Browser (it is identical to accessing eCampus/Blackboard through a web browser such as Chrome or Firefox – you login the same way, but no password is needed to access the tests (after downloading the program, then open it up and login just as you would to eCampus))...the tests are located in the “Assignments” link, click on the respective module (yellow folders with the different module names)- they are the last assignment/items that are found within the modules.

You will have 30 minutes to take each test. Once you open the test, be prepared to complete it. If you take half the test 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 tests are considered closed-book!

In order to improve test security, once a test has been taken, you will not be able to access the test 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.

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 (one Mastering assignment for each chapter) that will vary in points and type of assignment. They are designed for long-term retention of the concepts covered in the course with a wide-range of engaging activities and videos. Listed below are the required Mastering assignments:

- There are 11 chapters in which you will need to complete a short chapter reading quiz (for Chapters 1, 5, 6, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 19, 21, and 23 and vary between 5-10 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.
*Once a deadline has passed for a Mastering assignment and you complete it, it will show a “0” in the Grade Center, and in that case you will need to email me. I have to manually reset each completed assignment for you, so please do not get into a habit of completing Mastering assignments beyond their due date or you will likely be stuck with 0’s!*

**Activities**
You will have the opportunity to complete 5 short hands-on activities that are designed to provide the student with a further understanding of a topic area (1 per module). Activities are worth 25 points each.

**Discussion Board**
There are four (4) discussion questions posted within the course in eCampus. You will respond to the question posted, as well as respond to other student’s response. Each discussion question is worth 20 points.

**Labs**
There are 13 lab assignments to complete within eCampus. They are setup in a “quiz-like” format that follow the format of the lab manual (most questions are multiple choice). Each lab should take approximately 1-2 hours to complete, depending on the lab. Most labs are worth 20 points each.

**Directions to complete labs**: You will need to first access the eLab book in Mastering, which can be found by clicking on the "Mastering Assignments" link in our eCampus/Blackboard course and go to the "MyLab and Mastering page"....the lab book link is called "Applications and Investigations in Earth Science eText" located on the left-hand side of the web page below the "eText" link. The eLab book “Applications and Investigations in Earth Science eText” and eTextbook called "eText" look identical. Please open the "Applications and Investigations in Earth Science eText” all the way, as some student assume they do not have access to the lab book or click on the eText thinking they are opening the lab book, and the figures do not match! Click on the appropriate lab exercise. Next, you will then need to complete/answer/submit each lab in eCampus by going to the “Assignments” link in our course, click on the respective module link, then click on the respective Chapter link with lab, and then click on the respective lab link. They are setup in a multiple-choice type format (similar to a test, but untimed (you may also save them and go back at a later time)), and are mostly the same questions shown in the eLab book.

*As an example*, to access the first lab to be completed in eCampus, Lab 24, access the eLab book first in Mastering “Applications and Investigations in Earth Science eText” (select the last lab in the eLab book, Lab 24). Then, in eCampus, click on the “Assignments” link, click on “Module 1 – Geology Part 1” link, click on “Chapter 1 – Introduction to Earth Science and Lab 24 “The Metric System, Measurements, and Scientific Inquiry”, then click on “Lab 24 The Metric System, Measurements, and Scientific Inquiry”.
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.

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
This is a 100% online course. Therefore, you will not be required to attend at a set time and 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 Thursdays at Midnight (11:59 PM) as the deadline for turning in assignments for those participating online. All due dates are final, so please 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 (September 5th)

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 Thursday by Midnight (11:59 PM). Please complete Mastering Assignments ON-TIME!

If you think you will be unable to access eCampus on certain weeks, please work ahead. 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
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 “Introduction” discussion board 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 12th, 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.)

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 Thursdays by Midnight (11:59 PM). Please complete Mastering Assignments by their due dates!

● 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 (do not contact the DCCCD Technical Support – I 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 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 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

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.