GEOL 1403 Syllabus
El Centro College
Dallas County Community College District

Instructor Information
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Course Information
Course Title: Physical Geology
Course & Section Number: GEOL 1403 51400
Semester/Year: Fall 2020
Credit Hours: 4
Class Meeting Time/Location: Online
Class Meeting Dates: 08/24/20- 12/10/20

Course Prerequisites
GEOL 1103 Physical Geology (lab) and Pre/Co-requisite: GEOL 1303 Physical Geology (lecture)- Basically by enrolling in this 1403 course which includes lab (1103) and lecture (1303) you have already met the prerequisites😊

Course description
1403 Introduction to the study of the materials and processes that have modified and shaped the surface and interior of Earth over time. These processes are described by theories based on experimental data and geologic data gathered from field observations

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

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

1. Describe how the scientific method has led to our current understanding of Earth’s structure and processes.
2. Interpret the origin and distribution of minerals, rocks and geologic resources.
3. Describe the theory of plate tectonics and its relationship to the formation and distribution of Earth’s crustal features.
4. Quantify the rates of physical and chemical processes acting on Earth and how these processes fit into the context of geologic time.
5. Communicate how surface processes are driven by interactions among Earth’s systems (e.g., the geosphere, hydrosphere, biosphere, and atmosphere).
6. Identify and describe the internal structure and dynamics of Earth.
7. Describe the interaction of humans with Earth (e.g., resource development or hazard assessment).

1103 This laboratory-based course accompanies GEOL 1303, Physical Geology. Laboratory activities will cover methods used to collect and analyze earth science data.

Lab 1: Apply knowledge of topographic maps to quantify geometrical aspects of topography. Identify landforms on maps, diagrams, and/or photographs and explain the processes that created them.

Lab 2: Differentiate the types of plate boundaries and their associated features on maps and profiles and explain the processes that occur at each type of boundary.

Lab 3: Identify basic structural features on maps, block diagrams and cross sections and infer how they were created.

Labs 4 and 5: Classify rocks and minerals based on chemical composition, physical properties, and origin.
Lab 6: Explain the laws and principles of superposition, original horizontality, cross-cutting relationships, and unconformities that are used to determine relative ages of geologic events. Based on a geological cross-section, identify the oldest and youngest formations. Apply relative and numerical age-dating techniques to construct geologic histories.

Lab 7: Locate and name the oceans and major seas on Earth. Locate the major features of the ocean basins.

Fossil Fuels Project: Demonstrate the collection, analysis, and reporting of data

NOTE: Course and Lab objectives (1-5) are ACGM state mandated.

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
- Details TBA

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

Course Activities
Introductory Assignments
These assignments help the student understand the way the course functions and the subject of geology.

Main Assignments
The curriculum (12 chapters) has been divided into 3 units.

Each unit consists of:
- Reading assignments from the text book
- 5 question quiz for each chapter read
- 2-3 lab lessons
- Unit test- over the chapters covered in the text book

In addition to the unit assignments, students will work on a ‘fossil fuels’ project throughout the semester.
Grading Policy - Subject to Change

A total of 1000 points is available for each student to earn based on tests, exams, and lab exercises. The student's overall course grade shall be derived from the total points earned throughout the course.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Point Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discussion board Introduction</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lecture tests [3 @ 110 points]</td>
<td>330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes [13 @ 20 points]</td>
<td>260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lab Lessons [7 @ 40 points]</td>
<td>280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fossil Fuels Project</td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Total Possible Points = 1000 (40 Extra Credit Points built in)

Grading Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Total Points</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100%</td>
<td>900-1000</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-89%</td>
<td>800-899</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-79%</td>
<td>700-799</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-69%</td>
<td>600-699</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-59%</td>
<td>&lt;600</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Navigating the Course

After you log in you will see buttons located on the left side of the screen. Below are button titles and instructions.

**Start Here**:  
A folder containing valuable information and assignments that familiarize the student with the course operation

**Announcements**:  
Once you log-in check for announcements

**Instructor Information**:  
Professional bio and contact information.

**Email my Instructor**:  
This is the best way to contact your instructor. When you send an email using this system, it automatically alerts me to your name and which course you are enrolled in.
Syllabus and Calendar
Click to download or view a copy of the syllabus online (the same document you are reading!). The course calendar contains a list of all the assignments, labs, quizzes and exams and the point value for each.

Assignments (Subject to Change)

Reading Assignments:
Read the assigned chapter from the textbook from start to finish, use the ‘Concept Check’ questions located at the end of each section to ensure that you understand the material. Answers to the concept check questions are located at the back of each chapter.

Chapter Quizzes:
Once you have completed each reading assignment, you are ready to take the chapter quiz. The chapter quizzes have between 6-9 questions, multiple-choice and short essay. You have 2 chances! Highest score recorded.

Unit Tests:
A Unit test is given at the end of Units 1, 2, and 3. Example instructions are as follows:

What to know and expect before you take this test!

- Make sure you have Respondus Browser installed on your computer. The link for the installation is located under the 'My DCCCD' tab top left of your screen in Blackboard.
- The test is closed book. You are expected to have studied the chapters in Unit 1 prior to attempting the test.
- The test is timed, you have 1 hour.
- Once you begin you must finish the test. You may not save your work and complete the test later.
- 40 multiple choice questions 10 from each of the four chapters covered in the Unit.
- Each question is worth 2.75 points

Respondus LockDown Browser and Unit tests

- To increase Unit test security they must be taken using ‘Respondus’ software.
- When you log onto eCampus, there are Icons to your left under TOOLS. About the ninth one down, under tools, is Respondus Lockdown Browser...Click that!
- On the installation page, you will select the operation system that your computer is using. If you are using Windows...Click on Windows...the same if you are using Macintosh. You should select one OR the other. From there, once the installation has downloaded, you will need to sign into eCampus again through the Respondus software that you downloaded.
- When activated for the Unit tests, you will be unable to view any other pages except those that are in eCampus.
Lab Lessons:
There are 7 labs that need to be completed in this course, 2-3 per unit. Each lab has a lab handout this contains instructions on how to complete the lab, and then the actual lab is posted separately below in quiz form. Lab 1 doesn’t have a separate lab handout.

Fossil Fuels Project:
This special project comprises of 5 steps that will be completed throughout the semester cumulating in a short research paper that investigates the validity of renewable energy vs fossil fuel energy. Full instructions on this project is found under the ‘Fuels’ Project’ button on the course home page.

Check My Grades:
After the deadline for an assignment, I will have your grades posted 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.) You can access your grades through the “Blackboard Tools” area, click on “My Grades”.

Student Services:
Here you shall find a useful link for many student services offered at El Centro College including, but not limited to: the student handbook, library resources, testing, tutoring services, and institutional policies are all available under the ‘Students Services’ button on the course homepage.

Technical Support:
FAQs most asked by students using eCampus and a How To electronic manual in case you need additional help navigating this

Other Course Policies
Late Submissions
Policy I will only allow students to make up work in extreme circumstances, if possible contact me BEFORE the deadline or it will be too late, no matter what the excuse is.
**Once the deadline has passed for each UNIT, then you will no longer be able to access the quizzes 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 usually unacceptable to ask for deadline extensions.

Certification
Students must have completed at least one assignment on or before the certification date in order to be certified as attending class. Just logging in does not count as attending class.
Institutional Policies
All El Centro students are responsible for knowing and adhering to the following institutional and course-related policies:

Institutional Policies

Disclaimer
The 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 Coordinator/Instructor. When necessary, appropriate notice of such changes will be given to the student.