

South Plains College
Course Syllabus
Physical Geology 1403

Instructor Information

Instructor: Aaron Greene Office Location: S124
E-mail: agreene@southplainscollege.edu
Phone: 894-9611 Ext: 2970

Required Course Materials

Lecture: *EARTH, Portrait of a Planet, Sixth Edition / Stephen Marshak*

Purpose Statement

This course is an introduction to the dynamic planet earth. Physical forces, both interior and exterior, will be examined and interpreted. Plate tectonic interaction will be examined at the planet level and at the level of human interaction with earthquakes, volcanoes, landslides, etc.

Geologic research also examines the chemistry of the rocks and minerals that make up the planet's crust. This knowledge assists in the discovery of economic resources such as minerals, fossil fuels, and ground water. We will examine the importance of these resources in modern human life.

Prerequisites

No previous college-level courses are required.

Course Description

Introductory course in geologic principles; the composition and structure of the earth, its landforms, and the agencies active in their production are presented. This course is intended for all students interested in the study of the earth. Global examples of all theories and processes will be presented for interpretation and understanding.

A calendar will be provided, as soon as student presentation topics are accepted.

1. The key point to be addressed in lecture are:

- What is Geology?
- A Comparison & Contrast of Planets
- A Journey to the Center of the Earth
- The Delicate Composition of the Crust
 - Continental
 - Oceanic
- The Composition of the Entire Planet
- Continental Drift Theory
- Seafloor Spreading
- Paleomagnetism and Polar Wandering
- Plate Tectonics
- Minerals
- Rocks
- Igneous Rock Formation
- Metamorphic Rock Formation
- Sedimentary Rock Formation
- Volcanism
- Earthquakes

2. The key point to be addressed in lab are:

- Safety
- Creating Models of Earth Processes
 - Continental Drift
 - Seafloor Spreading
 - Paleomagnetism
 - Polar Wandering
 - Composition of the Planet
- Identifying Minerals
 - Defining Characteristics
 - Mohs Scale of Hardness

3. Classes meet twice a week for both lecture and lab

4. GEOL 1403 earns 4 credit hours

5. Students will develop proficiency in the appropriate Intellectual Competencies as follows:
- **Reading:** The ability to analyze and interpret a variety of printed materials, books, documents and articles – above the 12th grade level.
 - **Writing:** The ability to produce clear, correct and coherent prose adapted to purpose, occasion and audience – above the 12th grade level.
 - **Listening:** The ability to analyze and interpret various forms of spoken communication, possess sufficient literacy skills of writing, reading – above 12th grade level.
 - **Critical Thinking:** The ability to INDIVIDUALLY think and analyze at a critical level.
 - **Computer Literacy:** The ability to understand our technological society, use computer-based technology in communications, solving problems, acquiring information. Use of PowerPoint, Word, Excel, and Screencast-o-matic software within the Blackboard platform.

Course Objectives and Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, the student will show competence in the course objectives listed below:

Lecture:

1. Read the assigned chapters in the textbook and laboratory manual.
2. Attend all lectures and laboratory classes.
3. Take notes in class.
4. Participate in class discussions.
5. Complete assigned outside reading material and homework.
6. View audiovisual materials on selected topics.
7. Use the computer software in the lab and/or classroom as it is assigned.
8. Complete the exams on the assigned dates; the exams may include essay questions.

Laboratory:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of laboratory safety.
2. Gather, organize, calculate, and interpret data.
3. Effectively communicate scientific ideas (hypothesis, theories, and laws) with supporting evidence.
4. Identify & categorize rocks and minerals by their characteristics.
5. Interpret and analyze topographic maps.

Course Requirements

1. The student is required to do the following:
 - Read the assigned chapters in the textbook
 - **Attend all lectures and laboratory classes.**
 - Take notes in class.
 - Review notes daily.
 - **Participate in class discussions.**
 - Complete assigned outside reading material and homework.
 - View audiovisual materials on selected topics.
 - Use the computer software in the lab and/or classroom as it is assigned.
 - Complete the exams on the assigned dates

Outcomes Inventory

A pre and post-test will be inserted into the normal assessments to determine the extent of improvement the class has gained during the semester; given at the discretion of the instructor.

Diversity Statement

In this class, the teacher will establish and support an environment that values and nurtures individual and group differences and encourages engagement and interaction. Understanding and respecting multiple experiences and perspectives will serve to challenge and stimulate all of us to learn about others, about the larger world and about ourselves. By promoting diversity and intellectual exchange, we will not only mirror society as it is, but also model society as it should and can be.

Disability Statement

Students with disabilities, including but not limited to physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in this class should notify the Special Services Office early in the semester so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodation must provide acceptable documentation of his/her disability to the Special Services Coordinator. For more information, call or visit the Special Services Office in the Student Services building, 894-9611 ext. 2529.

Pregnancy Statement

If you are pregnant, or have given birth within six months, Under Title IX you have a right to reasonable accommodations to help continue your education. To activate accommodations, you must submit a Title IX pregnancy accommodations request, along with specific medical documentation, to the Director of Health and Wellness. Once approved, notification will be sent to the student and instructors. It is the student's responsibility to work with the instructor to arrange accommodations. Contact Chris Straface, Director of Health and Wellness at 806-716-2362 or email cstraface@southplainscollege.edu for assistance.

Calendar

The instructor will ensure that the course content is covered in a manner that fulfills the course objectives. Due dates for assignments, quizzes and exams will be provided within a calendar format. All dates will be tentative and **subject to change**. For instance, if Blackboard or the school servers go down, I will change due dates.

Attendance Policy

ATTENDANCE: School policy on attendance is covered in the current catalog. Roll is kept for **both lecture and lab**. If you are absent **four consecutive class-days**, you may be dropped or if you

accumulate five absences you may be dropped. **A drop in the above manner usually results in a grade of F.**

Instructor Initiated Drop

- **Attendance Policy (above)**
- **Excessive Class Interruption:** I truly enjoy teaching in a positive environment. I am jovial and helpful in class. I like being open and friendly, but the structure of the class is very important, so I can become very serious about keeping the rules. Please, realize, I will not hesitate to drop a student if I see evidence that they are preventing a positive learning environment. It is rare, but it can happen and it comes down to my determination. **I WILL ONLY GIVE ONE WARNING.**
 - In class phone use is prohibited, so please take this rule seriously. It gets out of hand quickly.
 - Disruptive, rude, or crude behavior is prohibited. Ask if you aren't sure if something is appropriate.
 - Aggressive tones and argumentative behavior will be given only one warning. Discussion of different opinions and positions is fine, in a polite manner.
 - If a directive to stop a behavior has been given and the behavior continues, a student may be dropped at the discretion of the instructor.
- **Academic Integrity**
 - Dishonesty of any kind on examinations or on written assignments, illegal possession of examinations, the use of unauthorized notes during an examination, obtaining information during an examination from the text- book or from the examination paper of another student, assisting others to cheat, alteration of grade records, illegal entry or unauthorized presence in an office are examples of cheating. Complete honesty is required of the student in the presentation of any and all phases of course work. This applies to quizzes of what- ever length, as well as to final examinations, to daily reports and to term papers. **(Student Code – SPC Student Guide, Pg: 12)**

Grade

<u>Grades for Class</u>	<u>Points Earned</u>	
Lab Quiz 1	10	_____
Lab Quiz 2	10	_____
Lab Quiz 3	10	_____
Test #1	10	_____
Test #2	10	_____
Test #3	10	_____
Presentation	10	_____
Lab Work and Participation Grade	10	_____
Online Quizzes	10	_____
FINAL	10	_____
Total Points Possible	100	_____