

South Plains College

Fall 2017 Semester

Course Syllabus

GEOL 1401.001 Earth Science for Non-Science Majors

A survey of geology, meteorology, oceanography, and astronomy.

Instructor: Dr. Kimberly Bouldin

Office: S106

Office hours: 1 – 3:30 pm MW, 9 – noon F, *other times by appointment*

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SOUTH PLAINS COLLEGE IMPROVES EACH STUDENT'S LIFE.

Course Room Numbers: Lecture LIB326, Lab LIB339

Course Textbook: Foundations of Earth Science, Eighth Edition by Frederick Lutgens and Edward Tarbuck

Course Description: This course is a survey of geology, astronomy, meteorology, and oceanography for non-science majors. The Earth's resources, natural disasters, climate, weather, and oceans will be examined with an emphasis on their effect on humans. Laboratory activities will cover methods used to collect and analyze data in geology, meteorology, oceanography, and astronomy.

Credit hours: 4

Lecture hours: 3

Lab hours: 3

Materials Needed: Students will each need a 2" three ring binder, a spiral notebook that will fit inside the binder, and writing utensils.

Course Learning Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students shall be able to:

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.
6. Classify rocks and minerals based on chemical composition, physical properties, and origin.
7. Apply knowledge of topographic maps, diagrams, and/or photographs to identify landforms and explain the processes that created them.
8. 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.
9. Apply relative and numerical age-dating techniques to construct geologic histories.
10. Measure atmospheric processes that affect weather and climate.
11. Describe the composition and motion of ocean water and analyze the factors controlling both.
12. Compare properties and motions of objects in the solar system.
13. Demonstrate the collection, analysis, and reporting of data.

Core Skills Developed in this Course

Communication skills--to include effective written, oral, and visual communication.

Critical Thinking skills--to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.

Empirical and Quantitative skills--to include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions.

Teamwork skills--to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal.

Breakdown of Grading:

Attendance	10%
Quizzes	10%
Homework	10%
Exam 1	10%
Exam 2	10%
Exam 3	10%
Exam 4	10%
Midterm	15%
Final	15%

Grading scale:

100---A---90, 89---B---80, 79---C---70, 69---D---60, 59---F---0

(Bonus points may be given for assignments and activities that are considered above and beyond course requirements. These points will be added to the homework grade average before calculating student's final grade. *Students are strongly encouraged to attempt all bonus assignments.*)

Attendance

Attendance in class is required at South Plains College. If you should have to be absent for class for any reason, please call a fellow student in the class to see what you have missed. In addition, **send the instructor an email** or call as soon as possible after an absence or before an absence if you have a planned conflict. Up to **three excused absences** per semester are allowed for any reason. If a fourth absence occurs, we will need to visit. **There will be a five-point deduction off your final grade for each absence above three, without proof of a family emergency or death.** Please schedule doctor appointments, parent-teacher conferences, university advising sessions, etc. at a time other than your class time.

Cell Phones: Use of cell phones during class will be limited to constructive, course-related usage. Students who become a distraction to anyone during class, by using his/her phone or in any other manner, will be given a one-time warning. After that student's second offense (whether it be on the same day as the first offense or not), the student will be excused from that day's class. This will count as one of the student's three excused absences, in addition to the student receiving a zero for attendance for that day. **(If a student is expecting an important call, please inform the instructor at the beginning of class.)**

Academic Integrity

It is the aim of the faculty of South Plains College to foster a spirit of complete honesty and a high standard of integrity. Classroom behavior that is not conducive to learning will be dealt with according to the guidelines set forth on the South Plains College Catalog. The attempt of any student to present as his or her own work which he or she has not honestly performed is regarded by the faculty and administration as a most serious offense and renders the offender liable to serious consequences, possibly suspension.

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.

Disabilities 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 Disability Services Office early in the semester so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodations must provide acceptable documentation of his/her disability to the Disability Services Office. For more information, call or visit the Disability Services Office at Levelland (Student Health & Wellness Office) 806-716-2577, Reese Center (Building 8) 806-716-4675, or Plainview Center (Main Office) 806-716-4302 or 806-296-9611.

Note to students with disabilities: If you have a disability-related need for reasonable academic adjustments in this course, provide the instructor with a letter of accommodation from the Disability Services Office. If you need immediate accommodations or physical access, please arrange to meet with the Disability Services Office before the next class meeting.

Non-Discrimination Statement

South Plains College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Vice President for Student Affairs, South Plains College, 1401 College Avenue, Box 5, Levelland, TX 79336. Phone number 806-716-2360.