

South Plains College
Course Syllabus
Earth Science 1 GEOL 1401

Instructor: Aaron Greene

Office Location: S184

E-mail: agreene@southplainscollege.edu

Phone: 806-716-2970

Required Course Materials

Lecture: *Earth Science by Tarbuck & Lutgens*

Purpose Statement

Survey of Astronomy, Meteorology, Oceanography and Geology

Prerequisites

No previous college-level courses are required.

Course Description

Introductory course, overviewing the components and processes of four major disciplines. Geological processes and structures will be defined. Meteorological data and processes will be recorded and observed. Oceanographic formations and mapping will be examined. Finally, Astronomical exploration and formation will be delineated over time from the human perspective on earth.

A schedule will be provided on Blackboard. Remember, **all due dates are subject to change**. Regularly check course announcements on Blackboard for scheduling changes.

1. Course Structure:

- a. **Astronomy**
- b. **Meteorology**
- c. **Oceanography**
- d. **Geology**

2. Online Lecture and Lab will be conducted through the SPC Blackboard platform.

3. GEOL1401 earns 4 credit hours

4. Students will develop proficiency in the appropriate Intellectual Competencies

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:

Lab Learning Outcomes:

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.

Lecture Learning Outcomes:

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.

Course Requirements

The student is required to do the following:

- **Read the assigned chapters in the textbook.**
- **Watch all online lecture video content on Blackboard.**

- Take notes over online lectures.
- Review notes daily.
- Participate in class activities offered online or in field activities.
- Complete reading material and homework using Feedback Fruit software.
- View audiovisual materials on selected topics.
- Students must abide by the Integrity Agreement for the course.
- Complete the assignments, quizzes and exams by the assigned dates.

Outcomes Inventory

Assessment questions will be inserted into assignments throughout the course to determine the mastery of course learning objectives; 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 / Schedule

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 may change due dates.

Attendance Policy

ATTENDANCE: Attendance is determined in an online class by completing tasks, assignments, quizzes and exams by the due dates. Exceptions are only made in cases of extreme hardship or loss. Proof of attendance at a funeral or proof of extreme illness will be required at the discretion of the instructor. **Late work will rarely be accepted by the professor.**

Instructor Initiated Drop

Attendance Policy (see above)

Students frequently, just stop submitting work in an online class. I no longer drop these students. The student has paid for the course. A drop can affect scholarships, financial aid, etc. In this course, it is the individual student's responsibility to drop the course.

Online Expectations

- Violations of the Integrity Agreement (including Proctorio rules and guidelines) warrant possible Instructor Initiated Drop, at the discretion of the instructor.
- Disruptive, rude, or crude behavior is prohibited in any format.
- Ask if you aren't sure if something is inappropriate.
- 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 all phases of course work. Once a student has honestly admitted the improper behavior or cheating, the student must commit to

adhering to ethical guidelines and rules of the course. This applies to quizzes of whatever length, as well as to final examinations, to daily reports and to term papers. **(Student Code – SPC Student Guide, Pg: 12)**

Online Testing (Proctorio)

Abnormal testing behaviors can result in tests not being accepted or expulsion from the course. **The purpose of a test (quiz or exam) is to show your knowledge of the material.** Normal testing environments in class or online should be quiet and controlled. I have become very strict in my expectations for online testing, so take the following very seriously. I will provide a detailed overview of proper testing behaviors on Blackboard. Here are just a few of the major included behaviors...

- One window is all that should be open on the computer (the test)
- Be seated at a desk or table (not a bed) in a well-lit room with your face well-lit
- Your face must be fully visible and centered on the screen
 - You may have to put objects under your laptop to capture your face properly
 - **Your entire face and head must be visible for the entire test**
 - **Your eyes should not look down or to the side for additional resources**
- Your camera and microphone must work properly (no fuzzy images)
- Your room must remain quiet
 - Please, avoid talking out loud or reading out loud
 - No one else should be in the room with you
- No other digital devices should be on or be used in the room other than the computer (no headphones even)
- Please, stay in one position and avoid moving excessively
- Do not cover your face or ears, please

I will not accept Proctorio assessments that do not follow the guidelines outlined on Blackboard. I will send an Announcement with these prior to the first Proctorio assessments. Failure to follow these guidelines will result in a drop from the course or at least a zero in the gradebook. I don't wish to accuse you of something you haven't done, so simply follow these guidelines so I may accept your assessments. I will provide examples of how to properly take a test in an online video.

Ultimately, the instructor make the final determination of whether a student has followed "proper testing behaviors" or not. It is possible for a student to receive a zero without cheating. Examples: a student could be in a dark room, preventing Proctorio from functioning properly, a student smears Vaseline on the camera..., a student is reading the questions aloud, a student is looking around (possibly for answers), a student has multiple windows open on their computer, a student is covering their mouth or eyes, a student has earbuds in, etc.

Online Assignments

Students are expected to produce their own individual work on all assignments. The work you submit should be your own thoughts and solutions.

Do not copy from digital sources or student sources. Mr. Greene firmly believes INTEGRITY is vital in the professional world. Please, keep this in mind. In class, this is rarely an issue, but online courses have proven to be different.

Grade Calculations

The following are the general divisions of grades. If I add extra credit assignments or field opportunities, these percentages will alter slightly. So, these are subject to change.

Astronomy Lab Average	8.3%
Meteorology Lab Average	8.3%
Oceanography Lab Average	8.34%
Geology Lab Average	8.34%
Lab Quiz 1	8.34%
Lab Quiz 2	8.34%
Lab Quiz 3	8.34%
Lab Quiz 4	8.34%
Exam #1	8.34%
Exam #2	8.34%
Exam #3	8.34%
Exam #4	8.34%

100% Scale