

South Plains College
Common Course Syllabus: Physical Geology
Revised: August 19th, 2024

Department: Science

Discipline: Geology

Course Number: GEOL 1401

Course Title: Earth Science 1 (**online**)

Instructor: Aaron Greene

Available Formats: Conventional

Campuses: Online

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 the four surveyed disciplines.

Prerequisites: None

Credit: 4 **Lecture:** 3 **Lab:** 3

Textbook: *OER*

This course satisfies a core curriculum requirement: Yes – Life and Physical Science (030)

Core Objectives addressed:

- **Communication skills** – to develop, interpret and express ideas through 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

Student Learning Outcomes/Competencies: Upon completion of this course and upon receiving a passing grade, the student will show competence in the course objectives listed below:

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. Describe the composition and motion of ocean water and analyze the factors controlling both.
11. Compare properties and motions of objects in the solar system.
12. Demonstrate the collection, analysis, and reporting of data.

Course Requirements:

1. The student should do each of the following:
 - a. Read the assigned chapters in the textbook and laboratory manual.
 - b. Attend all lectures and laboratory classes.
 - c. Take notes in class.
 - d. Participate in class discussions.
 - e. Complete assigned outside reading material and homework.
 - f. View audiovisual materials on selected topics.
 - g. Use the computer software in the lab and/or classroom as it is assigned.
 - h. Complete the exams on the assigned dates; the exams may include essay questions.
2. For laboratory the student should:
 - a. Complete the pre-laboratory assignment before going into lab.
 - b. Read and comprehend each experiment in the laboratory assignments.
 - c. Successfully complete each laboratory assignment.

- d. Learn to use and/or analyze data from instruments or equipment needed to complete the experiments.
- e. Complete the laboratory assignments, including post lab calculations and discussion questions.

Student Learning Outcome Assessment: Test questions embedded within the Comprehensive final will be used to determine mastery of each learning outcome.

Course Evaluation: Data Analysis, compiled on an XCEL document for quick overview of student performance and improvement. Course Evaluation Survey is considered, using direct assessment from student observations and experiences within the course.

Attendance Policy: When absences become excessive and, in the instructor's opinion, minimum course objectives cannot be met due to absences, the student will be withdrawn from the course. The current limit is 5 days in Fall and Spring semesters and 4 days in Summer 1 and 2 semesters.

Students may drop courses through Texan Connect, the Admissions and Records Office, or Advising and Testing Center through the late registration period.

After late registration has closed, a student must complete the online [Student Initiated Drop Request](#) to drop a course.

Students may also drop courses in person at any campus location by completing a Student Initiated Drop Form. Complete a [Student Initiated Drop Form](#) and return the signed form to the Levelland Admissions and Records Office, the Student Support Center at the Lubbock Downtown Center, the Lubbock Career and Technical Center, or Plainview Center. You must have a picture ID to complete the drop.

A mark of "W" will be given for student-initiated drops that occur prior to and through the last day to drop as indicated in the online Academic Calendar found here:

<https://www.southplainscollege.edu/academiccalendar/index.php>.

[Students are expected to attend all classes in order to be successful in a course. The student may be administratively withdrawn from the course when absences become excessive as defined in the course syllabus.

When an unavoidable reason for class absence arises, such as illness, an official trip authorized by the college or an official activity, the instructor may permit the student to make up work missed. It is the student's responsibility to complete work missed within a reasonable period of time as determined by the instructor. Students are officially enrolled in all courses for which they pay tuition and fees at the time of registration. Should a student, for any reason, delay in reporting to a class after official enrollment, absences will be attributed to the student from the first class meeting.

Students who enroll in a course but have "Never Attended" by the official census date, as reported by the faculty member, will be administratively dropped by the Office of Admissions and Records. A student who does not meet the attendance requirements of a class as stated in the course syllabus and does not officially withdraw from that course by the official census date of the semester, may be administratively withdrawn from that course and receive a grade of "X" or "F" as determined by the instructor. Instructors are responsible for clearly stating their administrative drop policy in the course syllabus, and it is the student's responsibility to be aware of that policy.

It is the student's responsibility to verify administrative drops for excessive absences through MySPC using his or her student online account. If it is determined that a student is awarded financial aid for a class or classes in which the student never attended or participated, the financial aid award will be adjusted in accordance with the classes in which the student did attend/participate and the student will owe any balance resulting from the adjustment.]

Syllabus Statements: For information about Artificial Intelligence, Disabilities, Non-Discrimination, Intellectual Exchange, Title IX Pregnancy Accommodations, CARE (Campus Assessment, Response, and Evaluation) Team, Campus Concealed Carry, and COVID-19, please use this link:

<https://www.southplainscollege.edu/syllabusstatements/>.

Plagiarism and Cheating: Students are expected to do their own work on all projects, quizzes, assignments, examinations, and papers. Failure to comply with this policy will result in an F for the assignment and can result in an F for the course if circumstances warrant.

Plagiarism violations include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Turning in a paper that has been purchased, borrowed, or downloaded from another student, an online term paper site, or a mail order term paper mill;
2. Cutting and pasting together information from books, articles, other papers, or online sites without providing proper documentation;
3. Using direct quotations (three or more words) from a source without showing them to be direct quotations and citing them; or
4. Missing in-text citations.

Cheating violations include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Obtaining an examination by stealing or collusion;
2. Discovering the content of an examination before it is given;
3. Using an unauthorized source of information (notes, textbook, text messaging, internet, apps) during an examination, quiz, or homework assignment;
4. Entering an office or building to obtain unfair advantage;
5. Taking an examination for another
6. Altering grade records;
7. Copying another's work during an examination or on a homework assignment
8. Altering a testing atmosphere to obtain an unfair advantage
9. Rewriting another student's work in Peer Editing so that the writing is no longer the original student's;
10. Taking pictures of a test, test answers, or someone else's paper.
11. Violating the Artificial Intelligence policy, as outlined in the syllabus. For more information on AI, please reference this in the syllabus statements:
<https://www.southplainscollege.edu/syllabusstatements/>

The Instructor will discuss plagiarism or inappropriate behavior during assessment, privately with the student. In rare cases, an instructor must verbally describe a behavior as being inappropriate in front of the class to preserve the proper academic atmosphere. In extreme cases, when a student does not understand that the behavior is inappropriate and detrimental to their future, an immediate removal from the class may be determined by the instructor.

If a student is spoken to twice about plagiarism, cheating or inappropriate testing behaviors they will likely be removed from the course to preserve the appropriate learning atmosphere necessary in an academic setting.

Student Code of Conduct Policy: Any successful learning experience requires mutual respect on the part of the student and the instructor. Neither instructor nor student should be subject to others' behavior that is rude, disruptive, intimidating, aggressive, or demeaning. Student conduct that disrupts the learning process or is deemed disrespectful or threatening shall not be tolerated and may lead to disciplinary action and/or removal from class.

The instructor will determine if a student's behavior is unfit for a learning environment and will usually giving one warning to the student privately, but retains the right to determine immediate removal from

a course based on inappropriate behavior that prohibits learning or causes students to feel uncomfortable and unsafe.

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 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.

Nondiscrimination Policy: 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.

Title IX Pregnancy Accommodations 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 the Director of Health and Wellness at 806-716-2362 or [email cgilster@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:cgilster@southplainscollege.edu) for assistance.

Campus Concealed Carry: Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in South Plains College buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and South Plains College policy, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations and Frequently Asked Questions, please refer to the Campus Carry page at: <http://www.southplainscollege.edu/campuscarry.php> Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all South Plains College campuses. Report violations to the College Police Department at 806-716-2396 or 9-1-1.

SPC Bookstore Price Match Guarantee Policy: If you find a lower price on a textbook, the South Plains College bookstore will match that price. The difference will be given to the student on a bookstore gift certificate! The gift certificate can be spent on anything in the store.

If students have already purchased textbooks and then find a better price later, the South Plains College bookstore will price match through the first week of the semester. The student must have a copy of the receipt and the book has to be in stock at the competition at the time of the price match.

The South Plains College bookstore will happily price match BN.com & books on Amazon noted as *ships from and sold by Amazon.com*. Online marketplaces such as *Other Sellers* on Amazon, Amazon's Warehouse Deals, *fulfilled by Amazon*, BN.com

Marketplace, and peer-to-peer pricing are not eligible. They will price match the exact textbook, in the same edition and format, including all accompanying materials, like workbooks and CDs.

A textbook is only eligible for price match if it is in stock on a competitor's website at time of the price match request. Additional membership discounts and offers cannot be applied to the student's refund.

Price matching is only available on in-store purchases. Digital books, access codes sold via publisher sites, rentals and special orders are not eligible. Only one price match per title per customer is allowed.

Note: The instructor reserves the right to modify the course syllabus and policies, as well as notify students of any changes, at any point during the semester