



Earth Sciences I – GEOL 1401

Course Syllabus: Fall 2017

“Northeast Texas Community College exists to provide responsible, exemplary learning opportunities.”

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Office Hours	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Online
	ONLINE	ONLINE	ONLINE	ONLINE	ONLINE	Daily

The information contained in this syllabus is subject to change without notice. Students are expected to be aware of any additional course policies presented by the instructor during the course.

Catalog Course Description (no prerequisites): The objective of this course is to provide students with a better understanding and appreciation of the Earth Sciences and the knowledge of how the earth's systems (geosphere, hydrosphere, biosphere and atmosphere) work and interact.

This course is the first semester of a two-semester sequence and topics include an introduction to Earth Science, Earth's position in space, near-earth objects, plate tectonics, earthquakes, volcanoes and other mountains, and rocks and minerals. It will include three hours of lecture and three hours of lab each week.

Required Textbook(s):

Digital Text with Connect McGraw Hill ISBN 0077359879-Copyright 2015 Edition 3

Required Lab Kit:

eScience Geology Lab Kit Code 7022 – Custom eScience Labs

You may purchase the kit code from the NTCC bookstore and redeem online at www.esciencelabs.com

Please order your kit as soon as possible prior to the start of the semester.

Required Reading(s): Chapters 1 through 8 in the textbook

Student Learning Outcomes:

Students will demonstrate an understanding of Earth science and the Earth System as a whole, including how the scientific method is utilized to explore Earth's role in space, near-earth objects, plate tectonics, earthquakes, volcanoes, rocks and minerals, and geologic time.

1. Students will demonstrate an understanding of core geologic concepts listed in #1 above and application of those concepts.
2. Students, through inquiry-oriented geologic lab experiments, will make observations, collect and analyze data, then construct explanations of natural phenomena through the use of a home lab kit.
3. Students will demonstrate an overall understanding of how humans' interactions affect earth and conversely how earth's processes affect humans.
4. Students will participate in self-reflection surveys to provide a means of uncovering what they may

- already know about a geologic topic and apply this information to the introduction of new concepts.
5. Students will demonstrate their ability to apply their knowledge of a geologic topic beyond the scope of the text.

**Lectures & Discussions for
GEOL 1401 ONLINE - INTRODUCTION TO EARTH SCIENCE I:**

WEEK 1	Syllabus review, verification of eScience Lab Kit, Lab Safety, Connect Registration
WEEK 2	Chapter 1: Introduction to Earth Science
WEEK 3	Chapter 2: Earth in Space
WEEK 4	Chapter 3: Near Earth Objects
WEEK 5	TEST #1 (Ch 1 2, 3); Chapter 4: Plate Tectonics
WEEK 6	Chapter 5: Earthquakes
WEEK 7	Test #2 (Ch 4 & 5) and field trip (optional)
WEEK 8	MIDTERM (Ch 1, 2, 3, 4, 5); Chapter 6: Volcanoes and Other Mountains
WEEK 9	Research paper topic/summary assignment
WEEK 10	Complete Research Paper; Chapter 7 Rocks & Minerals Sec. 7.1, 7.2, 7.3
WEEK 11	Chapter 7, Sec. 7.4
WEEK 12	TEST #3 (Ch 6, Ch 7 Sec 7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 7.4); Chapter 7, Sec. 7.5
WEEK 13	Chapter 7, Sec. 7.6, 7.7
WEEK 14	Chapter 8: Geologic Time
WEEK 15	Test #4 (Ch 7 Sec 7.5, 7.6, 7.7, 7.8, and Ch 8)
WEEK 16	FINAL EXAM (Ch 6, 7, 8)

Evaluation/Grading Policy:

Lecture Average 75% of final course grade

Lab Average 25% of final course grade

The “lecture” component of this course will consist of online homework/quizzes through McGraw-Hill Connect, Movie Night questions, and examinations with the following weight in calculating final lecture average:

- 15% online homework, quizzes, movie questions
- 30% Tests 1-4 (taken in Respondus Lockdown Browser) and Research Paper
- 15% Midterm Test (taken at an approved proctored location)
- 15% Final Test (taken at an approved proctored location)

The “lab” component of this course will consist of online and hands-on laboratory activities through eScience Lab Kit for Geology and instructor-provided activities outside of the kit:

25% eScience Kit Online and hands-on Labs/Activities

- **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:** Each chapter/topic opens with a set of discussion questions to help you connect what you already know with the new content in the chapter, as well as read other students

experiences and responses. Discussion questions will be due before midnight the Sunday after they are assigned. Once you answer the discussion questions then you will be granted access to other student responses so you can comment or reply. **Discussion questions must be answered and responses posted on time for full credit. No late submissions.**

- **MOVIE NIGHT QUESTIONS:** Each chapter/topic includes video(s) to watch with associated “Movie Night” questions. These questions are fill-in-the-blank and are simply answered by watching and listening to the movie. Movie night questions will be assigned weekly and will be due the following Monday by midnight. Late submissions will be accepted, but 10% deduction off the grade will be taken for each day late.
- **HOMEWORK:** Homework will be assigned weekly and will be due the following Monday by midnight. **Homework must be turned in on time for full credit (no exceptions).** Homework will not be accepted after the due date and will be given a score of zero if turned in late. Homework is open book with three attempts are allowed up until the due date, but 5% will be deducted from any new attempts.
- **QUIZZES:** Quizzes will be administered weekly and are due on Tuesdays at midnight. The quizzes will cover information from the textbook and from related topics/text in the laboratory manual. You can use your textbook or lab manual to answer these quizzes, but not another person. Each quiz will have up to 20 questions and a time limit of 30 minutes or less, which will not be enough to look up every answer from scratch during a quiz. In other words, you will need to read the textbook, view online materials, answer the chapter questions and study your notes before beginning the time-limited quiz. Once you begin the quiz you must finish it. Two attempts are allowed but 5% off the grade is taken on any second attempt. Late submissions will be accepted, but 10% deduction off the grade will be taken for each day late.

TESTS: Four online tests will be given in Respondus lockdown browser. Tests will be worth 100 points each. Tests will cover material presented in the class including textbook readings, homework, quizzes, and the laboratory manual. All exam scores will be included in your final grade. **Exams must be taken by the due date; no exceptions.**

- **MIDTERM AND FINAL EXAM:** The midterm and final exams must be taken at an approved proctored location or testing center. This is the student’s responsibility to make arrangements for proctored testing if they are unable to take the test at NTCC’s testing center. **The Midterm and Final Exam must be taken by the due date; no exceptions.**
- **RESEARCH PAPER:** A short research paper will be assigned about midway through the semester. The research paper will count as a test grade since it is a major project. Your paper should include a topic covered in this class (earthquakes, volcanoes, geologic processes, climate, or other related topic). You must submit one research paper each semester, and if enrolling for more than one semester (GEOL 1402), you must pick a different topic for each research paper. These reports must be 4-6 pages in the body of the text, double spaced, standard margins and font, with properly referenced and appropriate visual attachments (such as maps and diagrams) if needed, MLA or APA style. **Late submissions of the research paper will not be accepted. IF YOU CHOOSE TO ATTEND AND FULLY PARTICIPATE (MEANING TIMELY ARRIVAL AND NO LEAVING EARLY) A SATURDAY OCTOBER 8, 2016 FIELD TRIP TO GILMER ROCK SHOP IN GILMER, TEXAS, YOU DO NOT HAVE TO COMPLETE THE RESEARCH PAPER. SEE INFO ON FIELD TRIPS BELOW.**

- **LABORATORY ASSIGNMENTS/ACTIVITIES** –A total of 10 laboratory assignments/activities will be completed during the course. Eight of the ten laboratory assignments will be obtained from the eScience Geology Lab Kit and will provide a hands-on application of material presented in the class and textbook. The remaining two will be provided with a minimal supply list for completion. All lab/activity scores will be included in your final grade. **Late lab assignments will not be accepted.**
- **FIELD TRIPS** – A field trip to the Gilmer Rock Shop in Gilmer, Texas has been scheduled for Saturday November 4, 2017. If you actively participate in the activities required during the field trip, are on time and do not leave early, your research paper requirement will be waived. Your participation and activity grade will take the place of the research paper grade. Here is a link to Gilmer Rock Shop's facebook page to check it out and find its location to see if you can make it: <https://www.facebook.com/Gilmer-Rock-shop-370808302945767/>
- **Other Course Requirements:**
This is an online course in Earth Science. Both lecture and laboratory study materials and assignments will be delivered through the Blackboard Learning Management System at NTCC. Students should ensure that they have the appropriate hardware, software, and technical skills for completing all assignments, labs and tests.
- **Student Responsibilities/Expectations:**
Northeast Texas Community College is a “community of scholars.” Please remember that you and all students in this class are pursuing very important goals in your lives. As scholars, I expect every student to be courteous to other students and the instructor in both lecture and laboratory experiences. The academic honesty and ethics statements below are crucial to the integrity of any college coursework, particularly in an online setting.
- The last day to drop with a “W” is **TUESDAY NOVEMBER 21TH, 2017.**
It is a student's responsibility to withdraw by that date if they are not able to complete the course. Failure to do so WILL result in a grade of “F” for the semester.
- **NTCC Academic Honesty Statement:**
"Students are expected to complete course work in an honest manner, using their intellects and resources designated as allowable by the course instructor. Students are responsible for addressing questions about allowable resources with the course instructor. NTCC upholds the highest standards of academic integrity. This course will follow the NTCC Academic Honesty policy stated in the Student Handbook."
- **Academic Ethics**
The college expects all students to engage in academic pursuits in a manner that is beyond reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuit. Academic dishonesty such as cheating, plagiarism, and collusion is unacceptable and may result in disciplinary action. Refer to the student handbook for more information on this subject.
- **ADA Statement:**
It is the policy of NTCC to provide reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals who are students with disabilities. This College will adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to request accommodations. An appointment can be made with Shannin Garrett, Academic Advisor/Coordinator of Special Populations located in the College Connection. She can be reached at 903-434-8218. For more information and to obtain a copy of the Request for Accommodations, please refer to the [NTCC website - Special Populations](#).

➤ **Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA):**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's educational records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are considered "eligible students." In essence, a parent has no legal right to obtain information concerning the child's college records without the written consent of the student. In compliance with FERPA, information classified as "directory information" may be released to the general public without the written consent of the student unless the student makes a request in writing. Directory information is defined as: the student's name, permanent address and/or local address, telephone listing, dates of attendance, most recent previous education institution attended, other information including major, field of study, degrees, awards received, and participation in officially recognized activities/sports.