

Course Information Sheet
Physical Geology
GEOL 1403 – A1 and C1
Blinn College – Bryan Campus
Spring 2010

Instructor: Mr. Stephen Babalola **Class Schedule:** MTWR 7:45 – 10:25 am
Office: G234 **Office Hours:** MTWR 7:30 – 7:45; 10:25 – 10:45 am
Tel: (979) 209 – 7495 **E-mail:** sbabalola@blinn.edu
Homepage: <http://www.blinn.edu/brazos/natscience/Babalola/Babalola.htm>

General Course Information:

Course Description: General principles of physical geology. An introduction to the origin, composition, structure and dynamics of planet Earth. Topics are explored within the general context of plate tectonic theory and include: minerals and rocks, weathering and erosion, geological time, earthquakes, volcanoes, mountain building, oceans, landforms, and natural resources. Laboratory work involves the practical application of geological principles such as rock and mineral identification, geologic and topographic map interpretation, and geological data analysis. Three class hours and three laboratory hours per week. Credit: Four semester hours.

Prerequisites: None.

Core Curriculum Course: This is a course in the 42-hour Core Curriculum of Blinn College. As such, students will develop proficiency in appropriate intellectual competencies, exemplary educational objectives and general perspectives. The URL of the Blinn College core curriculum web site is: <http://www.blinn.edu/corecurriculum.htm>.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of the course, the student will have an overall average of > 60% of the combined lecture and laboratory components of the course. This includes at least 3 major exams and quizzes given at the discretion of the Instructor. In the laboratory, the student will demonstrate an understanding of the lab activities through analysis of materials presented in lab and by being able to use these materials to solve problems and explain geological processes.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Examine and analyze rock and mineral specimens and their occurrence and determine their context within the rock cycle.
2. Comprehend plate tectonic theory and evaluate its significance to geology. Relate the nature of Earth's internal structure and tectonics to geological phenomena (e.g. volcanoes, earthquake, deformational structures, etc.).
3. Understand geologic time and the rock record, including formation of Earth and Solar System. Be able to apply principles of relative and numerical dating.
4. Recognize the role of surficial processes (water, wind and gravity) and identify resulting landforms; identification and interpretation of landforms based on topographic maps.
5. Relate geology to human affairs; assess geohazard risk (earthquakes, volcanoes, floods) and natural resources.

These learning outcomes will include the student demonstrating competence in the course objectives listed below:

From Lecture:

1. Factors which distinguish the sciences from other fields of knowledge and methods of learning
2. How and why geology differs from other sciences
3. Processes involved in cycling matter and energy through the various Earth Systems
4. Vocabulary and basic concepts of geology
5. Plate tectonic theory and its significance to geology
6. Nature of the Earth's interior structure
7. Occurrences of rocks and minerals

8. Geologic time and the rock record
9. Surficial processes and resulting landforms
10. Occurrences of mineral resources
11. How geology currently affects us and has influenced human affairs

From Lab:

1. The use of the scientific method in developing and testing geological hypotheses
2. Identification and interpretation of rocks and minerals
3. Determination of relative and absolute age of rock formations and geological events
4. Calculation of rates and direction of tectonic plate motion
5. Assessment of geohazard risk (earthquake, volcanic eruption, flood, etc.)
6. Analysis of geologic maps and structures
7. Identification and interpretation of landforms based on topographic map data and remote imagery

Course Requirements:

The student should do each of the following:

- Read the assigned chapters in the textbook and laboratory manual
- Attend all lectures and laboratory classes
- Take notes in class
- 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; the exams may include essay questions
- Read and comprehend each exercise assigned in the laboratory manual
- Successfully complete each laboratory exercise
- Learn to use and/or analyze geological material and maps as needed to complete the laboratory exercises

Required Textbooks and Materials:**Textbook:**

EARTH: An Introduction to Physical Geology by Tarbuck & Lutgens. 9th Ed., Pearson Prentice Hall, 2008

Laboratory Manual:

AGI, NAGT Laboratory Manual in Physical Geology, Edited by Richard M. Busch, 8th Edition, 2008

Additional material notes, review material etc. will be posted to my eCampus classroom (under the "Lessons" tab)
<https://ecampus.blinn.edu/default.asp>

Class Policies:

Attendance: The College District believes that class attendance is essential for student success; therefore, students are required to promptly and regularly attend all their classes. Each class meeting builds the foundation for subsequent class meetings. Without full participation and regular class attendance, students shall find themselves at a severe disadvantage for achieving success in college. Class participation shall constitute at least ten percent of the final course grade. It is the responsibility of each faculty member, in consultation with the division chair, to determine how participation is achieved in his or her class. Faculty will require students to regularly attend class and will keep a record of attendance from the first day of class and/or the first day the student's name appears on the roster through final examinations. If a student has one week's worth of unexcused absences during the semester, he/she will be sent an e-mail by the College requiring the student to contact his/her instructor and schedule a conference immediately to discuss her/her attendance issues. Should the student accumulate two week's worth of unexcused absences, he/she will be administratively withdrawn from class.

There are four forms of excused absence officially designated by Blinn College: (1) Observance of religious holy days: The student should notify his/her instructor(s) not later than the 15th day of the semester concerning the specific date(s) that the student will be absent for any religious holy day(s); and (2) Representing Blinn College at an official institutional function and (3) official involvement in a high school activity for "dual credit" students; and (4) military service. Other excuses will be considered and may be considered excusable at the instructor's discretion, with documentation. **Missing lecture or lab or both will count as one absence.**

FLU Policy:

- Student absences reported as flu or flu-like symptoms are excused absences; you should notify me within 24 hours of the flu or flu-like symptoms.
- It is not necessary for you to provide a doctor's note to be excused or return to class. This is limited to one time during the semester
- **You are responsible for missed coursework. Be sure to contact me for missed Lab and arrange for make-up.**

Dropping: If a student chooses to drop the course, it is that student's responsibility to complete a drop order at the Office of Enrollment Services. Failure to do so could result in a grade of F in the course. The last day **to withdraw with a "W" is Friday, April 16, 2010.** IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO WITHDRAW FROM THE CLASS.

Health Concerns: Eating and drinking are **not** allowed in classrooms or laboratories.

Dishonesty Statement: Blinn College does not tolerate cheating, plagiarism or other acts of dishonesty. Definitions of these acts and procedures for dealing with them are described in "Scholastic Dishonesty" in the Blinn College Student Handbook, copies of which are available at the information desk in the administration building.

Civility Statement: Members of the Blinn College community, which includes faculty, staff and students, are expected to act honestly and responsibly in all aspects of campus life. Blinn College holds all members accountable for their actions and words. Therefore, all members should commit themselves to behave in a manner that recognizes personal respect and demonstrates concern for the personal dignity, rights, and freedoms of every member of the College community, including respect for College property and the physical and intellectual property of others. Civility applies to attire as well as language, behavior, and cell phone usage. Please dress appropriately for the academic classroom and laboratory.

If a student is asked to leave the classroom or have access to the online classroom denied because of uncivil behavior, the student may not return to that class until he or she arranges a conference with the instructor. It is the student's responsibility to arrange for this conference.

Problem Resolution: If you have a complaint about your class, you should first request a conference with your instructor to try and resolve the problems or issues. If the problems or issues cannot be resolved at the instructor level, you should request a conference with the Division Chair, Mr. Dwight Bohlmeyer, Science 241, dbohlmeier@blinn.edu.

Electronic Device Policy: All the functions of all personal electronic devices designed for communication and/or entertainment (cell phones, pagers, beepers, iPods, and similar devices) must be turned off and kept out of sight in all Blinn College classrooms and associated laboratories. Any noncompliance with this policy will be addressed in accordance with the Blinn College civility policy (Administrative Policy).

ADA Statement: Reasonable accommodations for students with documented learning or physical disabilities will be made upon presentation of a formal request by the student. An official request form is supplied and completed by the Office of Disability Services (ODS) located in the College Park Center Administration Building. The URL to the Office of Disability Services webpage is <http://www.blinn.edu/disability.htm>. Accommodation is not retroactive from the time of concluding agreement for accommodation.

The above requirements and policies are discussed more fully in the **Blinn College Student Handbook** which, by reference, is incorporated into this information. The handbook is available online at <http://www.blinn.edu/student%20handbook.pdf>. Please obtain and read a copy.

Student E-mail Account:

Blinn College is partnered with Microsoft Windows Live @ Edu to provide e-mail accounts to future, current and former Blinn students.

Each student is provided with an e-mail account once their application is complete.

You can log into [BORIS](#) to see your Blinn e-mail account.

- To start using your account go to: <http://mail.live.com>
- Your account is **Firstname.LastnameLast2digitsBlinnID@buc.blinn.edu**
- Your initial password is **your student ID number**

[First Time login step-by-step instructions](#)

What can I do with this account:

- Receive official communications from Blinn College
- Send/Receive e-mail to friends, fellow students, faculty and staff
- Store 1 GB of documents on SkyDrive in Spaces
- Share information with blogs, web pages, lists and photos in Spaces
- Forward this e-mail account or check multiple e-mail accounts
- Customize [MyMSN](#) to include e-mail and other content relevant to you

E-mail account does not expire and the Inbox remains active as long as you log in at least once every 120 days. To reactivate a dormant account, just log in.

Make-Up Policy: If you miss an Exam or graded Lab exercise because of any emergency situation, you must **notify me preferably by email** or phone (979) 209-7495 within 2 days, and provide written proof of the nature of emergency upon return to class. Otherwise, you will lose the opportunity for make-up. Make-up exams are given only in cases of an emergency and they will be mostly essay questions. Please NOTE, there are no make-ups for pop quizzes or the online quiz. No exceptions.

Late Work for Lab Exercises: An assignment is considered late if not received during the class period when it is due. You will lose 30% of the points for late assignments. If an assignment is not submitted during the class time following the due date, it will no longer be accepted for credit.

Open Lab: Every Friday in Room G216, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. starting the second week of class.

Criteria for Grading

Exams:

Four Lecture Exams: Each exam will be a combination of multiple choice questions and some short essay questions. Please bring a Scantron sheet and a #2 pencil for each exam.

Two Lab Exams: The Mid-Term and the Final

The Final Exam: The Final Exam will be comprehensive.

EXTRA CREDIT PROJECT:

The project should be on any geology-related topic of your choice. It includes:

- Type-written paper, double spaced, 4 – 7 pages long; paper must include a list of your references.
- Presentation of your project, 5 – 10 minutes allowed.

Please note that writing and presenting the lecture material for an extra credit project is NOT acceptable.

Quizzes:

There will be several **unannounced in-class Quizzes** covering Lecture and Lab materials. These will be averaged to 100 points. No make-up for quizzes.

Lab Exercises:

Lab exercises are checked during each Lab session, and credit is awarded upon completion. Your grade will be jeopardized for absences from Lab sessions.

Grading:

Lecture Exams, 100 points each , (best 3 out of 4)	300
Pop Quizzes and an eCampus Quiz	100
Lab Exercises	100
Lab Exams – Mid-Term and Final, 100 points each	200
Final Exam – Comprehensive	200
Project and Presentation (Optional)	25 Bonus Points
TOTAL	900 points

The grading system of Blinn College recognizes the following grade values:

A = 90 – 100%; B = 80 – 89%; C = 70 – 79%; D = 60 – 69%; F = less than 60%

FINAL EXAM DATES

Section A1, MW 7:45 a.m. Class... Monday, **May 10, 2010** 7:45 – 9:45 a.m.

Section C1, TR 7:45 a.m. Class... Tuesday, **May 11, 2010** 7:45 – 9:45 a.m.