

**Course Information Sheet**  
**Physical Geology**  
**GEOL 1403 – A1, C1, C3, and C7**  
**Blinn College – Bryan Campus**  
**Fall 2009**

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**Instructor:** Mr. Stephen Babalola

**Office:** G234

**Tel:** (979) 209 – 7495

**Homepage:** <http://www.blinn.edu/brazos/natscience/Babalola/Babalola.htm>

**Class Schedule:** MW 7:45 – 10:25; TR 7:45-1:15; 4:15 – 6:55

**Office Hours:** MW 10:25 -11:30; TR 3:15 – 4:15 p.m.

**E-mail:** [sbabalola@blinn.edu](mailto:sbabalola@blinn.edu)

**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 and Student Learning Outcomes:** 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.

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. 9<sup>th</sup> Ed., Pearson Prentice Hall, 2008*

### **Laboratory Manual:**

*AGI, NAGT Laboratory Manual in Physical Geology, Edited by Richard M. Busch, 8<sup>th</sup> 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 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 his/her attendance issues. If the student subsequently accumulates two weeks worth of absences, he/she will be administratively withdrawn from class.

There are four forms of excused absences officially recognized by the institution:

1. Observance of religious holy days-Sec. 51.911(b), Texas Education Code. An institution of higher education shall excuse a student attending classes and/or required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day. A student whose absence is excused under this section may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment. The student should notify his or 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 the College District at an official institutional function. If a student is asked by the College District to be an official representative of the College District at any function approved by the institution, the student will be excused from any classes missed and must be allowed to complete all work without penalty for that absence(s) in a timely manner as directed by the faculty member.
3. A high school student representing the independent school district at an official institution function. If a high school student is asked by the independent school district to be an official representative of the school district at any function approved by the institution, the student shall be excused from any class missed and must be allowed to complete all work without penalty for the absence(s) in a timely manner as directed by the faculty member.
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.**

**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, November 20, 2009.**

Please note the new Blinn **"6 W Policy"** in the [Blinn College Student Handbook](#)

**Classroom Details:** FOOD and DRINKS are not allowed in the classroom. Cell Phones are not allowed per Blinn College Board. Please remember to TURN OFF CELL PHONES.  
I do not want to see or hear a cell phone. Turn it off.

**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 and behavior. Please dress appropriately for the academic classroom and laboratory.

**If a student is asked to leave the classroom 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.**

**ADA Policy:** Students needing special accommodation due to a disability must obtain authorization from the Disabilities Counseling Office in room 157 of the Blinn Science building.

The above requirements and policies are discussed more fully in the [Blinn College Student Handbook](#) which, by reference, is incorporated into this information. Please obtain and read.

#### **Student E-mail Accounts**

To start using your account, go to: <http://mail.live.com>

Your account is [Firstname.LastnameLast2digitsBlinnID@buc.blinn.edu](mailto:Firstname.LastnameLast2digitsBlinnID@buc.blinn.edu)

Your initial password is *your student ID number*

**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.

**Project and Presentation:**

Five to Ten-minute presentation of a project on any geology-related topic of your choice

**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	400
Pop Quizzes and 1 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
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1000 points</b>

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 December 14, 7:45 – 9:45 a.m.

Section C1, TR 7:45 a.m. Class... Tuesday, December 15, 7:45 – 9:45 a.m.

Section C3, TR 10:35 a.m. Class... Tuesday, December 15, 10:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Section C7, TR 4:15 p.m. Class... Wednesday, December 16, 3:15 – 5:15 p.m.