

**Historical Geology  
GEOL 1404 Section A2  
Blinn College, Bryan Campus  
Course Information Sheet  
Fall 2009**

**Instructor:** Dr. Amanda Julson  
**Office:** G-246  
**Telephone:** 979-209-7503

**Class Schedule:** 12:00-2:40 p.m.  
**Office Hours:** Tu-W-Th 9:00-10:30 a.m.  
**Email:** [ajulson@blinn.edu](mailto:ajulson@blinn.edu) (Note: email is the best way to contact me)

**General Course Information:**

**Course Description:** General principles of historical geology with emphasis on evolution of Earth and life through time. Topics include an overview of the rock cycle and plate tectonic theory, with emphasis on stratigraphic principles, the fossil record, evolutionary theory, and paleogeographic map interpretation. Laboratory work includes basic study of rocks, interpretation of depositional environments and tectonic settings, stratigraphic sequence analysis, and fossil interpretation. Three class hours and three laboratory hours per week. Credit: Four semester hours.

**Prerequisites:** GEOL 1403 (Physical Geology) or permission of instructor.

**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:

1. Relate topics from physical geology to Earth's history (e.g., plate tectonics, rock cycle).
2. Analyze the formation, classification and interpretation of sedimentary rocks.
3. Apply stratigraphic principles to interpret the rock record.
4. Apply relative and absolute dating principles to interpret the geologic history of rock units.
5. Explain evolutionary theory and relate it to changes in the fossil record through time.
6. Identify and classify fossils (including mode of preservation) and apply them to interpret age and environment of strata.
7. Characterize each time period of Earth's history (beginning with its origin) with regard to changes in the paleogeography, environment, and biota.

**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 three 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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. 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.

**Unexcused Absence Appeal:** If you wish to have me consider excusing an absence for any other reason than the three listed above you need to provide a completed Unexcused Absence Appeal Form (see ECampus) on the first day you return from absence. Upon excusing the absence, missed grades from the missed class will be not be counted in calculating the average for graded work. Incomplete or late forms will not be considered. I will only grant a maximum of 2 unexcused absence appeals per individual. Additional missed classes will result in zeroes for graded items on those days.

**Make-ups:** There will be no make-ups for exams or graded work.

If you miss class, you are still responsible for learning any missed material. Lecture notes are posted in eCampus. Read over the notes from any missed lecture(s) and arrange to meet with me to discuss any questions you may have. Due to the complex nature of our lab work, it is not possible to schedule make-ups for missed labs. You can meet with me during my office hours or Open Lab (Friday, 1:30-3:30 p.m.) for a brief synopsis.

If a major exam is missed, the grade will be replaced with the grade (%) on the Final Exam **if an acceptable explanation is presented to me in a timely manner**; otherwise you will receive a zero for the exam. I will only allow this for ONE of the three major exams.

If a Lab Test is missed you must discuss the situation with me ASAP and arrange to make up the test or you will receive a zero for the lab test.

**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 November 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Eating/Drinking, Electronic Devices:** Neither eating nor drinking is allowed in classrooms or laboratories. Cell phones and other electronic devices should be turned off. Laptop computers may be used for note-taking ONLY.

**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.

**ECampus Support:** Office of Distance Learning, Blinn College: <http://www.blinn.edu/disted/index.htm> , [support@blinn.edu](mailto:support@blinn.edu) , or (979) 209-7298

**Criteria for Determining Final Grade:**

Lecture Exams (100 points each):	300 points
Lab Tests (100 points each):	200 points
ECampus Assignments (average):	100 points
In-Class Questions (average):	100 points
Lab Exercises (average):	100 points
Comprehensive Final Exam:	<u>200 points</u>
Total for class =	1000 points

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

**A = 90 – 100% mastery of course material**

**B = 80 – 89% “**

**C = 70 – 79% “**

**D = 60 – 69% “**

**F = less than 59% “**

**Textbooks and Other Materials:**

**Textbook:** *Historical Geology (6th ed.)*: by Wicander & Monroe, 2009 (Brooks/Cole Cengage Learning)

**Lab Manual:** *Blinn College Historical Geology Lab Manual Spring 2009*: Prentice Hall Custom Publishing.

Additional class and lab materials will be available through ECampus or distributed in class or via email.