Course Information

Course Description and Learning Outcomes
This course is designed to familiarize the student with the processes, principles, and theories involved in Physical Geology. The student will learn how to carefully defend their thinking when answering questions or participating in a discussion. Learning outcomes will be evaluated by homework, quizzes, and exams. At the end of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Describe the scientific method and apply it in a geological context.
2. Describe Earth’s major systems and explain how they interact.
3. Identify common rocks and minerals and interpret how they form.
4. Describe and interpret the development of landforms and geologic structures.
5. Explain the plate tectonic theory and explain its relationship to earth processes, features, and landforms.

Core Curriculum Student Learning Outcomes
The following list of core curriculum student learning outcomes will be met and measured during this course:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Learning Outcome</th>
<th>Assessment Method</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Gather, analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information relevant to a question or issue.</td>
<td>Homework/In-class Assignment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Develop, interpret, and express ideas through effective visual communication.</td>
<td>Journal Entry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Manipulate and analyze numerical data and arrive at an informed conclusion</td>
<td>Homework/In-class Assignment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Manipulate and analyze observable facts and arrive at an informed conclusion</td>
<td>Quiz/Exam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Work effectively with others to support and accomplish a shared goal.</td>
<td>IDEA Forms</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Course Delivery**

**Asynchronous Remote Sessions**

To maintain academic quality while accommodating social distancing needs this semester, this course will use a split delivery model that combines face-to-face teaching with remote instruction.

The goal is to provide face-to-face instruction to students who want to return to campus, while also allowing students who may need to learn remotely to participate via virtual class sessions.

**How Does It Work?**

Your class will be divided and you will be placed into a smaller group of students to maintain physical distancing requirements in our assigned classroom space.

Your assigned group will receive a schedule of in-person class meetings. This schedule is not flexible. For instance, if you are supposed to attend class on a Monday, you cannot elect to go on Wednesday with another class group instead.

When you are not in the physical class, you will be responsible for completing assigned coursework in Blackboard. This work can be completed any time before the posted deadline.

Please refer to this Health and Safety web page for updated information about campus guidelines as they relate to the COVID-19 pandemic.
**Required Texts and Materials**

Online Homework Platform: Smartwork6 for Earth: Portrait of a Planet  
Note: You are not required to purchase the book or online homework platform through the ASU Bookstore

**Technology Requirements**

You will be required to have a computer with a webcam with internet access for this course. You may also be required to turn in assignments on Blackboard using a scanner.

**Respondus Lockdown Browser:**
Access to exams will be through Respondus Lockdown Browser and will be video recorded via Respondus Monitor. Respondus requires a desktop computer or laptop (not a Chromebook) and a webcam. For best results, use an ethernet cable to connect to your Internet source instead of relying on Wifi. Refer to the Blackboard course for Respondus installation instructions.

**Communication**

I will respond to email and/or telephone messages within 24 hours during working hours Monday through Friday. Weekend messages may not be returned until Monday.

**Written communication via email:** All private communication will be done exclusively through your ASU email address. Check frequently for announcements and policy changes. In your emails to faculty, include the course name and section number in your subject line.

**Virtual communication:** Office hours and/or advising may be done with the assistance of the telephone, Collaborate, Skype, etc.

**Grading**

**Evaluation and Grades**

Course grades will be determined as indicated in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Percent of Total Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Daily grades</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekly journals</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homework Assignments</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lecture Exams</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam (cumulative)</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Grading System**
Course grades will be dependent upon completing course requirements and meeting the student learning outcomes.

The following grading scale is in use for this course:
- **A** = 90.00-100 %
- **B** = 80.00-89.99 %
- **C** = 70.00-79.99 %
- **D** = 60.00-69.99 %
- **F** = 0-59.99 %

**Assignment and Activity Descriptions**
To complete the homework assignments, you will need to register with Smartwork. Follow the instructions posted in Blackboard. Late work will not be accepted.

**General Policies Related to This Course**
All students are required to follow the policies and procedures presented in these documents:

- Angelo State University Student Handbook¹
- Angelo State University Catalog²

**Academic Integrity**
Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in all work. Any student found guilty of any form of dishonesty in academic work is subject of disciplinary action and possible expulsion from ASU.

The College of Science and Engineering adheres to the university’s Statement of Academic Integrity.³

**Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**
ASU is committed to the principle that no qualified individual with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs or activities of the university, or be subjected to discrimination by the university, as provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments of 2008 (ADAAA) and subsequent legislation.
Student Disability Services is located in the Office of Student Affairs, and is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability. It is the student’s responsibility to initiate such a request by contacting an employee of the Office of Student Affairs, in the Houston Harte University Center, Room 112, or contacting the department via email at ADA@angelo.edu. For more information about the application process and requirements, visit the Student Disability Services website. The employee charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing accommodation requests is:

Dallas Swafford  
Director of Student Disability Services  
Office of Student Affairs  
325-942-2047  
dallas.swafford@angelo.edu  
Houston Harte University Center, Room 112

Incomplete Grade Policy

It is policy that incomplete grades be reserved for student illness or personal misfortune. Please contact faculty if you have serious illness or a personal misfortune that would keep you from completing course work. Documentation may be required. See ASU Operating Policy 10.11 Grading Procedures for more information.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a serious topic covered in ASU’s Academic Integrity policy in the Student Handbook. Plagiarism is the action or practice of taking someone else’s work, idea, etc., and passing it off as one’s own. Plagiarism is literary theft.

In your discussions and/or your papers, it is unacceptable to copy word-for-word without quotation marks and the source of the quotation. It is expected that you will summarize or paraphrase ideas giving appropriate credit to the source both in the body of your paper and the reference list.

Papers are subject to be evaluated for originality. Resources to help you understand this policy better are available at the ASU Writing Center.

Student Absence for Observance of Religious Holy Days

A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. See ASU Operating Policy 10.19 Student Absence for Observance of Religious Holy Day for more information.
Title IX at Angelo State University

The University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, and other types of Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct is a broad term encompassing all forms of gender-based harassment or discrimination including: sexual assault, sex-based discrimination, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, public indecency, interpersonal violence (domestic violence and/or dating violence), and stalking. As a faculty member, I am a Responsible Employee meaning that I am obligated by law and ASU policy to report any allegations I am notified of to the Office of Title IX Compliance.

Students are encouraged to report any incidents of sexual misconduct directly to ASU’s Office of Title IX Compliance and the Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator at:

Michelle Boone, J.D.
Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator
Mayer Administration Building, Room 210
325-942-2022
michelle.boone@angelo.edu

You may also file a report online 24/7 at www.angelo.edu/incident-form.

If you are wishing to speak to someone about an incident in confidence you may contact the University Health Clinic and Counseling Center at 325-942-2173 or the ASU Crisis Helpline at 325-486-6345.

For more information about Title IX in general you may visit www.angelo.edu/title-ix.9

Food and Drink Policy

No food or drinks (other than water or close-lid drinks) are allowed in the classroom.

Required Use of Masks/Facial Coverings by Students

As a member of the Texas Tech University System, Angelo State University has adopted the mandatory Facial Covering Policy10 to ensure a safe and healthy classroom experience. Current research on the COVID-19 virus suggests there is a significant reduction in the potential for transmission of the virus from person to person by wearing a mask/facial covering that covers the nose and mouth areas. Therefore, in compliance with the university policy students in this class are required to wear a mask/facial covering before, during, and after class. Faculty members may also ask you to display your daily screening badge as a prerequisite to enter the classroom. You are also asked
to maintain safe distancing practices to the best of your ability. For the safety of everyone, any student not appropriately wearing a mask/facial covering will be asked to leave the classroom immediately. The student will be responsible to make up any missed class content or work. Continued non-compliance with the Texas Tech University System Policy may result in disciplinary action through the Office of Student Conduct.

Modifications to the Syllabus
This syllabus, including grade evaluation and course schedule, is subject to modification. In particular, the COVID-19 pandemic may require significant changes in course delivery and content on potentially short notice.

Course Schedule
Note: Subject to change. All due date/times are in central time zone.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assigned Reading</th>
<th>Homework and Exam Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#1: 8/17 – 8/21</td>
<td>What is Geology? The Scientific Method</td>
<td>Prelude</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#2: 8/24 – 8/28</td>
<td>Solar System Formation Planet Earth</td>
<td>Chapter 1, Chapter 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#3: 8/31 – 9/4</td>
<td>Continental Drift</td>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#4: 9/7 – 9/11</td>
<td>Plate Tectonics</td>
<td>Chapter 4</td>
<td>Homework #1 Due 9/13 at 11:59pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#5: 9/14 – 9/18</td>
<td>Minerals</td>
<td>Chapter 5</td>
<td>Exam 1 (open 9/14 8am to 9/18 11:59pm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#6: 9/21 – 9/25</td>
<td>Igneous Rocks</td>
<td>Chapter 6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#7: 9/28 – 10/2</td>
<td>Weathering and Erosion Sedimentary Rocks</td>
<td>Interlude B, Chapter 7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#8: 10/5 – 10/9</td>
<td>Metamorphic Rocks</td>
<td>Chapter 8</td>
<td>Homework #2 Due 10/11 at 11:59pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#9: 10/12 – 10/16</td>
<td>The Rock Cycle</td>
<td>Interlude C</td>
<td>Exam 2 (open 10/12 8am to 10/16 11:59pm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#10: 10/19 – 10/23</td>
<td>Volcanoes Earthquakes</td>
<td>Chapter 9, Chapter 10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#11: 10/26 – 10/30</td>
<td>Mountain Building Geologic Time</td>
<td>Chapter 11, Chapter 12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#12: 11/2 – 11/6</td>
<td>Energy Resources Streams and Floods</td>
<td>Chapter 14, Chapter 17</td>
<td>Homework #3 Due 11/15 at 11:59pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#13: 11/9 – 11/13</td>
<td>Groundwater Deserts</td>
<td>Chapter 19, Chapter 21</td>
<td>Exam 3 (open 11/9 8am to 11/13 11:59pm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#14: 11/16 – 11/20</td>
<td>Climate Change</td>
<td>Chapter 23</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#15: 11/21</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>Cumulative</td>
<td>Online</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>