

GEOL 1303 FALL 2021

PHYSICAL GEOLOGY



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Virtual Office Hours (via Collaborate; hours subject to change): MW 2:00 pm-4:00 pm; TR 10:30 am-12:00 pm; or by appointment (in-person meetings can be scheduled)

Course Information

Student Learning Outcomes

This course is designed to familiarize the student with the processes, principles, and theories involved in Physical Geology. The student will how to carefully defend their thinking when answering questions and with their writing. Learning outcomes will be evaluated by homework, discussion posts, 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.

Required Texts and Materials

- Textbook: Earth: Portrait of a Planet, 6th Edition, Stephen Marshak
- Online Homework Platform: Smartwork5 for Earth: Portrait of a Planet

Note: You are not required to purchase the book or online homework platform through the ASU Bookstore.

Course Delivery

This is an online course that will be delivered via [Blackboard](#).¹ If you choose, you can complete this course without visiting the ASU campus. Each week, several learning modules will be posted on Monday morning and due the following Sunday at end of day (11:59 pm Central Time Zone). This gives you a full week to complete each week's

material. The learning modules contain lecture videos, quizzes, and other assignments for you to complete. If you do go on campus, please refer to this [Health and Safety web page](#)² for updated information about campus guidelines as they relate to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Communication

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, include the course name and section number in your subject line. 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.

Technology

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

Core Curriculum Student Learning Outcomes

The following list of core curriculum student learning outcomes will be met and measured during this course:

Student Learning Outcome	Assessment Method
1. Gather, analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information relevant to a question or issue.	Homework
2. Develop, interpret, and express ideas through effective visual communication.	Journal Entry
3. Manipulate and analyze numerical data and arrive at an informed conclusion	Homework
4. Manipulate and analyze observable facts and arrive at an informed conclusion	Quiz/Exam
5. Work effectively with others to support and accomplish a shared goal.	IDEA Forms

Grading

Evaluation and Grades

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

Assessment	Percent of Total Grade
Learning Module Quizzes	25
Homework Assignments	25
Journals	20
Midterm Exams (2)	15
Final Exam (cumulative)	15
Total	100%

- **Learning Module Quizzes:** These are assigned each week. They will be available Monday morning and due Sunday by end of day (11:59 pm). Quizzes will be administered through Blackboard and will not be timed (they are open book/notes).
- **Homework Assignments:** These will be posted in Blackboard and administered through Smartwork (see instructions on Blackboard). These are listed in the course schedule on the last page of the syllabus.
- **Journals:** Two-three individual journals will be assigned each week. These are conceptual/critical thinking question and your response is only visible to me. More information is detailed in Blackboard including the grading rubric.
- **Midterm Exams:** There will be 2 midterms throughout the course (see schedule for dates). They will be open book/notes and timed.
- **Final Exam:** The final exam is cumulative, open book/notes, timed, and will be available Monday through Thursday during the week of finals.

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%

Attendance and Assignment Policy

You are expected to keep track of due dates and complete each learning module. Missed assignments, quizzes, and exams cannot be made up. NOTE: You are NOT automatically dropped if you stop completing assignments. The last day to drop this course is September 30, 2021.

Smartwork Homework Assignments

To complete the homework assignments, you will need to register with Smartwork. Follow the instructions posted in Blackboard.

General Policies Related to This Course

All students are required to follow the policies and procedures presented in these documents:

- [Angelo State University Student Handbook](#)³
- [Angelo State University Catalog](#)⁴

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](#).⁵

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](#).⁶ 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](#)⁷ for more information.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a serious topic covered in ASU's [Academic Integrity policy](#)⁸ 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. I encourage you to work together on homework assignments and to study together for exams. However, anything you turn in must be in your own words.

Papers are subject to be evaluated for originality. Resources to help you understand this policy better are available at the [ASU Writing Center](#).⁹

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](#)¹⁰ for more information.

Title IX at Angelo State University

Angelo State University is committed to providing and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from sex discrimination of any kind. In accordance with Title VII, Title IX, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE), and other federal and state laws, the University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, and other types of Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct is a broad term encompassing all forms of gender-based harassment or discrimination and unwelcome behavior of a sexual nature. The term includes sexual harassment, nonconsensual sexual contact, nonconsensual sexual intercourse, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, stalking, public indecency, interpersonal violence (domestic violence or dating violence), sexual violence, and any other misconduct based on sex.

You are encouraged to report any incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Office of Title IX Compliance and the Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator, Michelle Miller, J.D. You may submit reports in the following manner:

Online: [Incident Reporting Form](#)¹¹

Face to Face: Mayer Administration Building, Room 210

Phone: 325-942-2022

Email: michelle.miller@angelo.edu

Note, as a faculty member at Angelo State, I am a mandatory reporter and must report incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Title IX Coordinator. Should you wish to speak to someone in confidence about an issue, you may contact the University Counseling Center (325-942-2371), the 24-Hour Crisis Helpline (325-486-6345), or the University Health Clinic (325-942-2171).

For more information about resources related to sexual misconduct, Title IX, or Angelo State's policy please visit the [Title IX website](#).¹²

Information about COVID-19

Please refer to ASU's COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Updates web page for current information about campus guidelines and safety standards as they relate to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Modifications to the Syllabus

This syllabus, including grade evaluation and course schedule, is subject to modification on potentially short notice based on developing circumstances.

Course Schedule (subject to change)

Week	Topics	Assigned Reading	Exams and Homework
#1: 8/23 - 8/27	Navigating the course + Syllabus +What is geology? Solar System Formation	Prelude Chapter 1	
#2: 8/30 - 9/3	Planet Earth Continental Drift Plate Tectonics	Chapter 2 Chapter 3 Chapter 4	Smartwork HW #1 (Due 9/5)
#3: 9/6 – 9/10	Minerals Igneous Rocks Weathering & Erosion + Sedimentary Rocks	Chapter 5 Chapter 6 Interlude B Chapter 7	Smartwork HW #2 (Due 9/12)
#4: 9/13 - 9/17	Metamorphic Rocks The Rock Cycle Volcanoes	Chapter 8 Interlude C Chapter 9	Exam #1 (Due 9/17) Smartwork HW #3 (Due 9/19)
#5: 9/20 - 9/24	Earthquakes Mountain Building Geologic Time	Chapter 10 Chapter 11 Chapter 12	Smartwork HW #4 (Due 9/26)
#6: 9/27 - 10/1	Energy Resources Landslides and Mass Movements Streams and Floods	Chapter 14 Chapter 16 Chapter 17	Exam #2 (Due 10/1) Smartwork HW #5 (Due 10/3)
#7: 10/4 - 10/8	Groundwater Deserts Climate Change	Chapter 19 Chapter 21 Chapter 23	Smartwork HW #6 (Due 10/10)
#8: 10/11-10/15	Final Exam (cumulative)		

¹ <https://blackboard.angelo.edu/>

² <https://www.angelo.edu/covid-19/returning-to-campus/health-and-safety.php>

³ <https://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/>

⁴ <https://www.angelo.edu/catalogs/>

⁵ <https://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/community-policies/academic-integrity.php>

⁶ <https://www.angelo.edu/services/disability-services/>

⁷ <https://www.angelo.edu/content/files/14197-op-1011-grading-procedures>

⁸ <https://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/community-policies/academic-integrity.php>

⁹ https://www.angelo.edu/dept/writing_center/academic_honesty.php

¹⁰ <https://www.angelo.edu/content/files/14206-op-1019-student-absence-for-observance-of>

¹¹ <https://www.angelo.edu/incident-form>

¹² <https://www.angelo.edu/title-ix>