

# Geology 1403: Physical Geology

## Fall 2017

**Instructor:** Dr. Joseph C. Hill

**Office:** LDB 314

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**Office Hours:** 8:30 -9:30 AM TTh; by appointment or anytime I'm around and my door is open (knock if it isn't – I might be hiding)

### Course Information

**Location:** LDB 207

**Required Text:** Essentials of Physical Geology by Stephen Marshak, 4<sup>th</sup> edition or later; W.W. Norton

### Course Description

This class is an introduction to Physical Geology. The class will focus on the origin and history of the earth, the materials and structure of the earth, and the processes and forces that continually act upon the earth both internally and externally.

### Grading

Your grade in lecture will be based on your performance on **three lecture exams, ~14 quizzes of which the top ~10 will count toward your grade (administered through Blackboard), and a comprehensive final exam.** Exams may include any of the following: multiple choice, true/false, identification, and short answer based on lectures and reading assignments.

There are 550 total points available for the lecture portion of the class. Each of the quizzes will be worth 10 points each. The first three lecture exams will be worth 100 points each and the final comprehensive exam will be worth 150 points. There will be no extra credit and no curve in the course.

Semester Exams (3 X 100 pts)	300 pts
Final Exam	150 pts
Online Quizzes (10 X 10 pts)	<u>100 pts</u>
Total	550 pts

Your total course grade will be weighted 75% for lecture grade and 25% for lab grade.

### Quizzes and Exams:

Quizzes will come directly from your reading assignments. Exams will come from a combination of online lecture and assigned reading from your book. Please complete the reading assignments prior to attempting the quizzes and exams. Blackboard quizzes will be open each Monday by 12:00 PM and will close each Sunday at 11:00 PM. You may access the quiz by logging into Blackboard at:

<https://blackboard.shsu.edu/webapps/login/>

### **Important Class Dates**

It is your responsibility to complete the exams in a timely manner. Failure to complete the exam during the week it is scheduled will result in a zero for that exam. Exceptions fall under Missed Exams and Assignments below.

Exam 1: September 21<sup>st</sup>

Exam 2: October 24<sup>th</sup>

Exam 3: November 28<sup>th</sup>

**Final Exam: Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup> 9:30 – 11:30 AM**

### **Grading Scale:**

A = 495 – 550 pts      B = 440 – 494 pts      C = 384 – 439 pts

D = 330 – 383 pts      F = 0 – 329 pts

### **Academic Honesty**

I expect you to fulfill your academic obligations through honest and independent effort. If I have sufficient reason to believe you are cheating on any graded work in this course, you will be dropped from the course with a failing grade. You may refer to the SHSU Academic Policy Manual, student section, Policy #810213 for specific language.

### **Americans with Disabilities Act:**

Any student with documented disabilities who may need classroom academic adjustments or auxiliary aids and services may request academic accommodations (for example, a note taker). Students must request assistance with academically related problems stemming from a disability by contacting the Director of the Counseling Center in the Lee Drain Annex or by calling (936) – 294-1720. It is the campus office responsible for reviewing documentation provided by students requesting academic accommodations, and for accommodations planning in cooperation with students and instructors, as needed and consistent with course requirements.

### **Class Policies on Attendance/Behavior**

Your attendance, motivation, and participation are integral to your success in this course. Regular attendance is by far the easiest way to achieve a good grade in this course. I implore you to attend each and every class and to actively participate. The university requires that I take attendance for the course. More than 6 unexcused absences will result in a failing grade for the course.

I expect that you will act like adults. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Please turn cell phones off during class and respect your peers.

If **you** decide to drop the course, it is **your** responsibility to fill out the necessary paperwork or you will receive a grade based upon your performance in the class regardless of the amount of work you completed.

### **Missed Exams and Assignments**

Make-up exams, quizzes, and assignments will be allowed for documented emergencies only (e.g., severe illness, death of immediate family, etc.). To be eligible to take a make-up for any work you missed, you must notify me **before** the missed exam and present sufficient proof to document your emergency. It is your responsibility to schedule a make-up exam/quiz and the exam/quiz must be taken **within one week** of the missed exam/quiz. There will be no make-up exam for the final.

### **Computer Problems:**

**\*Please Note:** Computer problems are not sufficient cause for making up missed work. All quizzes are set up such that you have ample opportunity to complete the assignment. If you wait until the last possible time to complete an assignment and have computer problems, unfortunately I cannot help rectify the situation.

**HOWEVER**, these things do happen. If a Blackboard quiz locks up on you during the week and you contact me with sufficient lead time, I can reset the assignment in most instances. Know that I become suspicious of any pattern of multiple reset requests.

**REMEMBER** this class can be accessed from **any computer on this planet** with an internet connection if you are enrolled in this class. SHSU maintains multiple computer laboratories for your convenience if your personal computer should crash. Forgetting to get to a computer before an assignment deadline is your problem, not mine.

## **Lecture Topics**

\*\*\***Please Note**\*\*\* The topics of lecture are in relative chronological order but are subject to change. The dates of the exams are set and the material to be covered will be clarified based on lecture topics completed.

<b>Lecture Topics</b>	<b>Readings/Reference</b>
1 Introduction to Geology	Chapter 1
2 Birth of a Planet	Chapter 2
3 Geologic Time	Chapter 10
4 Earth Processes: Physical Principles	Interlude D, Chapter 2
5 Plate Tectonics: How the Earth Works	Chapter 2
<b>Approximate Exam 1</b>	
7 Minerals	Chapter 3
8 Introduction to Rocks and the Rock Cycle	Interlude A & C
9 Igneous Rocks	Chapter 4
10 Volcanos and Volcanic Eruptions	Chapter 5
11 Sedimentary Rocks	Chapters 6, Interlude B
12 Sedimentary Systems	Chapters 6
13 Weathering	Chapters 6
14 Metamorphic Rocks	Chapter 7
<b>Approximate Exam 2</b>	
16 Mountain Building	Chapter 9
17 Earthquakes	Chapter 8
18 Introduction to Earth Systems: The Dynamic Earth	Lecture Review; Chapter 19
19 Landslides and Mass Wasting	Chapter 13
20 Streams and Floods	Chapter 14
21 Groundwater	Chapter 16
<b>Approximate Exam 3</b>	
22 Glaciers and Ice Ages*	Chapter 18
23 Deserts*	Chapter 17
24 Shorelines and Oceans*	Chapter 15

*\*We'll likely get to just one of these topics*