



**Department of Natural Sciences
GEOLOGY Program**

<http://www.hccs.edu/geology>

GEOL 1403: Physical Geology | Lecture & Lab | #CRN 14995

Fall 2020 | 16 Weeks (8/24/2020-12/13/2020)

Hybrid online | West Loop Campus room C221 | lab: Mon/Wed 7am-9:50am
4 Credit Hours | 96 hours per semester

Instructor Contact Information

Instructor: Karen Yip	Office Phone: 713-718-6781
Usual Office: West Loop rm 228	Office Hours: Mo – Th 3 – 4 pm (or ask)
HCC Email: karen.yip@hccs.edu	Current office: WebEx (schedule in EagleOnline)

In our current mode of instruction and closed campus status, office hours will be held virtually via WebEx. Please feel free to contact me concerning any problems that you are experiencing in this course or impacting your experience in this course. Your comfort in my class is very important to me. Also, I appreciate the chance to express even more enthusiasm about studying the Earth when you come talk to me outside of class.

Instructor's Preferred Method of Contact

Communication with students is high on my priority list. I will respond to emails within 24 hours Monday through Friday. Sometimes I will reply nearly immediately, other times it may be closer to the 24hrs. Email responses on the weekend will be less regular.

Most of your contact with me will be via EagleOnline's "inbox" feature. This tool will automatically fill in our course information in the subject line of your message. Also, the reply email address will only be your ____@student.hccs.edu address. For the sake of your information security I won't reply to e-mails that are not from your ____@student.hccs.edu address.

If you choose to call the office phone **do** leave a voice mail with your return number. Even though I am not on campus I will receive the voice messages via email so I can listen to them. And most of the time I have the phone program open so it may even ring on my computer.

The Department of Natural Science can be contacted via phone 713-718-6050 or email natural.sciences@hccs.edu

What's Exciting About This Course

What is going on with this planet we live on? Are you curious about earthquakes and volcanoes? Where did the sand come from that you build castles with at the beach? Did you

have a collection of favorite rocks you filled your pockets with as a kid? Think you want to own property in the future and might want to know more about rivers and flooding? This class is for you!

The purpose of this course is to enable students to use fact and observation to make interpretations about geologic processes operating today and in the past. Key questions to be addressed: What are the major elements of plate tectonic theory? How do Earth systems modify the landscape? What impact do geologic processes have on our local environment? Global environment? Students will learn to interpret data from a variety of resources including topographic maps, rock and mineral collections, personal observation, and the World Wide Web. The fundamental assumption behind this course is that entry level students who may have little previous exposure to the sciences can learn interpret geologic data from a scientific point of view. What you will discover is that Geology is an eclectic science and in this course you will be exposed to chemistry, biology, and physics. And, yes, even some mathematics. A basic understanding of principles from these fields underlies many of the concepts that you will learn in this course. We will review, for example, the basics of atomic structure and chemical bonding as an introduction to Minerals. AND this course transfers as a lab-science course!

My Personal Welcome

Welcome to Physical Geology—I'm delighted that you have chosen this course. One of my passions is to know as much as I can about Earth and its materials, and I can hardly wait to pass that on. I will present the information in the most exciting way I know, so that you can grasp the concepts and apply them now and hopefully throughout your life. As you read and wrestle with new ideas and facts that may challenge you, I am available to support you. The fastest way to reach me is by my HCC email. The best way to really discuss issues is in person and I'm available during posted office hours to tackle any questions you might have. My goal is for you to walk out of the course with a better understanding Earth's features and the processes that create them. So please visit me or contact me whenever you have a question.

Prerequisites and/or Co-Requisites

GEOL 1403 requires college-level reading and math skills. The minimum requirements for enrollment in GEOL 1403 is qualifying to enroll in INRW 0420 or ESOL 0370/0360 as well as place into MATH 0314 or higher. Please carefully read and consider the repeater policy in the [HCCS Student Handbook](#).

Canvas Learning Management System

This hybrid section of GEOL 1403 will use EagleOnline Canvas (<https://eagleonline.hccs.edu>) for access to the etextbook, assignments, assessments and communication. You MUST have reliable, regular access to an internet-connected computer. You can check software requirements via the support pages of Eagle Online Canvas. Make sure your browser "plug-ins" and "add-ons" are up to date. We all know that sometimes technology fails us. If your personal computer goes on the fritz or your internet connection is disconnected for a few days please reach out to me. I know we are in a situation with few easy ways to gain access to the internet.

HCCS Open Lab locations may be used to access the Internet and Eagle Online Canvas when campuses are open. Please pay attention to announcements about campus availability. It is recommended that you **USE FIREFOX OR CHROME AS YOUR BROWSER.**

HCC Online Information and Policies

While this class is not officially part of the HCC Online College, here is the link to information about HCC Online classes: <http://www.hccs.edu/online/>

EagleOnline Announcements.

Please check your notification settings in EagleOnline. Be sure that Announcements are sent immediately to your email account. When I send Announcements to the class I am assuming they are pushed to you immediately. <https://eagleonline.hccs.edu/>

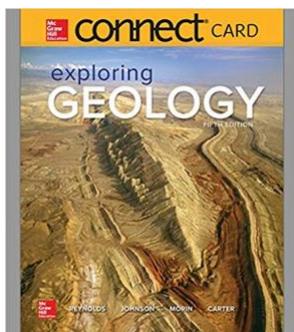
Instructional Materials

Textbook Information

The textbook listed below is **required** for this course and included as First Day Access.

"Exploring Geology" (5th edition) by Reynolds et al (McGraw-Hill, 2018). Digital book via *Connect* ISBN: 9781260139976

This ebook on the *Connect* system is included in the course fees as "First Day access". See below section for more information.

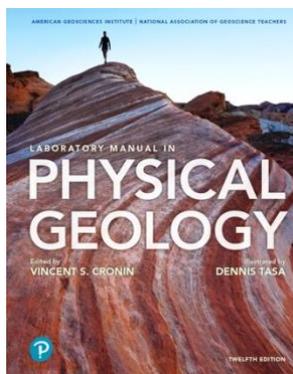


The Lab Book is **required** for this course.

"Laboratory Manual in Physical Geology" (12th edition) AGI/NAGT, edited by Vincent Cronin (Pearson, 2021)

Students will receive more information about the lab book from their instructor. Instructors may recommend hardcopy -or- digital access to this book.

For Fall 2020 we will use the eText+Mastering access. Registration information will be available in EagleOnline.



About First Day Access

This course is a course participating in First Day Access! You will receive immediate access to an electronic version of the required textbook (**Exploring Geology, 5th ed, Reynolds et al.**), in the McGraw-Hill **Connect** system via EagleOnline. The charge for electronic access to Connect is billed as a course fee for this class. Instructors will have instructions about finalizing registration to access Connect, the McGraw-Hill system where the book and other materials are accessed. Cost of book access is part of student's course fees which is a much lower cost than retail.

Student may "opt out" of included access, but then will need to pay for book access on their own which costs more. The opt-out access is through the "course materials" link in the course EagleOnline page and will trigger a refund process from the HCC business office.

Students may also purchase a loose-leaf copy of the textbook from McGraw-Hill if they would like a physical copy of the text. This option is available from within the student's Connect account.

About the Textbook

This is a unique textbook designed to help you learn geologic concepts and processes on your own. Nearly all the information in the book is built around illustrations and photographs, rather than being in long blocks of text. The entire book consists of a series of two-page spreads organized into chapters. Each two-page spread is a self-contained block of information about a specific topic and has a short list indicating what you should be able to do before you leave these pages. The What-To-Know List is your guide to what is important. If, when studying from the book, you construct your own answer to each item on the What-To-Know List, then I predict you will receive an A in the class. Each two-page spread in the book has a unique number (e.g., 12.4), and these numbers are referenced for quizzes and other course assignments. Each chapter ends with an investigation concerning a problem associated with a "virtual place".

Other Instructional Resources

While this is an online class and it may seem like simply reading and re-reading text and notes will be helpful, many times this semester I will emphasize sketching concepts. Please have a notebook with plenty of paper, pencils, and a few colored pencils or multicolored pens available to use in note-taking and on assignments. Some assignments and assessments will require you to sketch out some ideas and label them by hand, then upload an image/scan of your sketch for submission.

Through the semester I will post suggested supplemental information or resources on our class EagleOnline page. It is highly recommended that you take a look at those materials.

Tutoring

HCC provides free, confidential, and convenient academic support, including writing critiques, to HCC students in an online environment and on campus. Tutoring is provided by HCC personnel in order to ensure that it is contextual and appropriate. Visit the [HCC Tutoring Services](#) website for services provided.

Libraries

The HCC Library System consists of 9 libraries and 6 Electronic Resource Centers (ERCs) that are inviting places to study and collaborate on projects. Librarians are available both at the libraries and online to show you how to locate and use the resources you need. The libraries maintain a large selection of electronic resources as well as collections of books, magazines, newspapers, and audiovisual materials. The portal to all libraries' resources and services is the HCCS library web page at <http://library.hccs.edu>.

Check out the Geology LibGuide maintained by the HCC library <https://library.hccs.edu/geology>

Course Overview

GEOL 1403 is introductory lab-based geology. Introduction to the study of the materials and processes that have modified and shaped the surface and interior of Earth over time. These processes are described by theories based on experimental data and geologic data gathered from field observations. Laboratory activities will cover methods used to collect and analyze

earth science data. This course is required as the introductory course in most geology undergraduate programs and is the prerequisite for GEOL 1404.

Core Curriculum Objectives (CCOs)

GEOL 1403 satisfies the social science requirement in the HCCS core curriculum. The HCCS Geology Program Committee has specified that the course address the following core objectives:

- **Critical Thinking:** Students will demonstrate the ability to engage in inquiry and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information, and creative thinking. Students will
- **Communication Skills:** Students will demonstrate effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication. For example, students will construct well labeled concept sketches of geologic processes or settings to demonstrate understanding.
- **Quantitative and Empirical Literacy:** Students will demonstrate the ability to draw conclusions based on the systematic analysis of topics using observation, experiment, and/or numerical skills. Exercises based around maps, sample identification, geologic structure analysis, and landscape evaluation are examples of how these objectives will be encountered.
- **Teamwork:** to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal by working together with other classmates on assignments or a project during the semester. Many lab assignments may be completed in teams.

Program Student Learning Outcomes (PSLOs)

Can be found at: <https://learning.hccs.edu/programs/geology>

Course Student Learning Outcomes (CSLOs)

Upon completion of GEOL 1403, the student will be able to:

1. Describe how the scientific method has led to our current understanding of Earth's structure and processes.
2. Interpret the origin and distribution of minerals, rocks and geologic resources.
3. Describe the theory of plate tectonics and its relationship to the formation and distribution of Earth's crustal features.
4. Quantify the rates of physical and chemical processes acting on Earth and how these processes fit into the context of geologic time.
5. Communicate how surface processes are driven by interactions among Earth's systems (e.g., the geosphere, hydrosphere, biosphere, and atmosphere).
6. Identify and describe the internal structure and dynamics of Earth.
7. Describe the interaction of humans with Earth (e.g., resource development or hazard assessment).
8. (Lab) Classify rocks and minerals based on chemical composition, physical properties, and origin.
9. (Lab) Apply knowledge of topographic maps to quantify geometrical aspects of topography.
10. (Lab) Identify landforms on maps, diagrams, and/or photographs and explain the processes that created them.
11. (Lab) Differentiate the types of plate boundaries and their associated features on maps and profiles and explain the processes that occur at each type of boundary.

12.(Lab) Identify basic structural features on maps, block diagrams and cross sections and infer how they were created.

13.(Lab) Demonstrate the collection, analysis, and reporting of data.

Learning Objectives

1. Defend or criticize the evidence for Plate Tectonics.

2.1 Compare the formation of igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic rocks

2.2 Explain distribution and formation of fossil fuel and mineral resources.

3.1. Identify the major physiographic features of the oceans and continents related to their plate tectonic setting

3.2. Sketch the different types of plate boundaries and label the features.

4.1 Evaluate the movement of the continents from the formation of Pangaea to present day positions.

4.2 Compare rates of geologic surface processes (e.g., rate of glacial retreat, erosion, coastal retreat)

5.1 Describe the combination of processes that shape landforms.

5.2 Evaluate how the biosphere affects rates of chemical weathering.

6.1 Draw and label a diagram of the interior of the earth.

6.2 Describe how Earth's internal structure impacts plate motion.

7.1 Discuss human modification of Earth's surface and how it contributes to geologic hazards (e.g., dams, highways, wetland development).

8.1. Identify a variety of common rock-forming minerals using physical properties.

8.2. Identify igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic rocks using texture and composition.

9.1. Read, interpret, analyze and understand topographic maps and geological profiles in terms of relief, contour intervals, and elevation.

9.2. Construct topographic maps with provided data.

10.1. Use various forms of technology (e.g., Google Earth, stereo photographs) to identify landforms.

11.1 Draw and label a profile of a subduction zone and a divergent boundary.

11.2 Identify the plate boundary types based on landforms seen on the map (e.g., offset rivers along transform fault)

12.1 Label and interpret folds and faults on geologic maps and cross-sections.

12.2 Interpret the geologic structures in relation to plate tectonic stresses.

13.1. Locate the epicenter of an earthquake by reading a seismogram.

Student Success

Your success is our goal! How can you boost your chance to be successful? Know what the expectations are. Expect to spend 6-10 hours on this course per week. The assignments provided will help you use your study hours wisely. Successful completion of this course requires a combination of the following:

- Reading the textbook or assigned documents and completing the reading assignments.
- Reviewing your notes and practice concept sketches
- Attending lab (online for 6 weeks and in-person when campus opens)
- Reviewing course information like you are practicing a sport – frequently, little by little
- Participating in class activities
- Engage with supplemental course materials

Students should follow the syllabus calendar so as to keep up with what topic or chapter will be discussed each week.

If possible, take the time to gather (even virtually!) with classmates for study sessions, note comparison, and exam preparation. Everyone learns better when you are together!

There is no short cut for success in this course. Anything you want to succeed at requires practice. Basketball? Piano playing? Ballet? Video games? You can't just go do these things and think you'll "rock it", they all need practice. So, treat your courses this way too – build your skills during the semester for a successful final grade!

Instructor and Student Responsibilities

As your Instructor, it is my responsibility to:

- Encourage a safe, comfortable, welcoming learning space where trust may be earned.
- Provide the grading scale and detailed grading formula explaining how student grades are to be derived
- Use, test, implement many learner-centered instructional techniques.
- Facilitate an effective learning environment through learner-centered instructional techniques
- Provide a complete, understandable description of any special projects or assignments.
- Inform students of policies such as attendance, withdrawal, tardiness, and make up
- Provide the course outline and class calendar which will include a description of any special projects or assignments
- Let students know when I am worried about their performance in or absence from class.
- Notify clearly any changes in due date or course calendar contents.
- Listen to concerns, fears, excitement, "ah-ha" moments from all students.

As a student, it is your responsibility to:

- Participate and engage with classmates.
- Be respectful of classmates both in our virtual class and in-person lab room.
- Participate actively by reviewing course material, interacting with classmates, and bringing your "I wonder" statements to class
- Stay in communication via e-mail, EagleOnline inbox, and checking for Announcement posts.
- Review the feedback given on quizzes, assignments, and assessments – you learn from mistakes and will shine if you build on imperfect first attempts.
- Keep track of your scores, your grades.
- Complete the required assignments and exams
- Ask for help when there is a question or problem

- Keep copies of all paperwork, including this syllabus, handouts, and all assignments
- Be aware of and comply with academic honesty policies in the [HCCS Student Handbook](#)

Assignments, Exams, and Activities

Exams

Lecture exams will consist of a variety of question types including multiple choice, fill-in, short answer, image labeling and sketching. Prior to the exam I will let you know about any materials you will need (ie: Scantron, calculator, colored pencils, rulers, blank paper, etc). Exam dates are indicated on the course calendar listed in this syllabus. Exam #1 covers material from chapters 1 – 4. Exam #2 covers material from chapters 5 – 9, 11. Exams will be administered on EagleOnline. They will be available for a minimum of 24 hours. Students can start the exam anytime in the availability window. The exam will be timed, at most 90 minutes. Exam may have more than 1 part, may require drawing a concept sketch and submitting a scanned/captured image. See Academic Honesty statement below.

Laboratory Exercises

Lab attendance is mandatory. Lab sessions are 7 am-9:50am as the class schedule indicates. Lab exercises and assignments are designed to complement the lecture/textbook material and give you a chance to apply geologic thought processes beyond vocabulary. Thinking through and understanding lab assignments are a big step toward learning the material. Collaborative group work is emphasized. You can learn from your classmates and they from you.

****Each week there will be a pre-lab activity. The pre-lab activity is mandatory and will be part of the lab assignment score. The pre-lab will be submitted via EagleOnline or via Mastering depending on the assignment. Pre-lab assignments have a firm deadline prior to each week's lab session. The pre-lab will be worth 5 points of the total 25 points of the assignment. Students should check EagleOnline Canvas for the pre-lab instructions and needed lab handouts or worksheets. Many lab assignments will use the assigned Laboratory Manual eText, some will have handouts/worksheets, some will require GoogleEarth. Handouts may need to be printed and brought as a hard copy. COPIES WILL NOT BE PROVIDED BY THE INSTRUCTOR. PRINT BEFORE COMING TO CLASS.**

Lab Quizzes are also part of the Lab portion of the class. Lab quizzes will also be given covering some of the skills practiced in lab exercises. The first lab quiz will be rock and mineral identification. The 2nd lab quiz will cover material as announced. The nature of these quizzes may change depending on whether we are able to be on campus or not.

Quizzes

Quizzes will be assigned throughout the semester. The quizzes will cover chapter-based information as well as discussions from class. The quizzes will be administered on-line via the class EagleOnline site. The quizzes will be available for 3 – 5 days. *Once the deadline has passed you will not be able to take the quiz.* Most quizzes will allow more than one attempt, though you won't see the same questions for the multiple attempts. The highest score of your attempts will be the one recorded. I encourage taking the 2 attempts to always improve your score! You can review your quizzes after completing them to use as study material. See the grading criteria below for the weight of the quizzes in your final score.

Assignments or Projects

Assignments in this course will be weekly reading assignments with the Connect on-line SmartBook, pre-lab and lab assignments and a research project. The Connect system is

designed to aid students in preparing for class by focusing reading. LearnSmart is a very helpful study product. The goal of LearnSmart is to help you learn the topics presented in each assignment by asking you a series of questions that adapt to your strengths and weaknesses to guide you through the material you need to learn. We will talk more about this the first week of class.

Class Discussions – during the semester students will be asked to post reactions and responses to relevant current events in the geosciences. Instructions will be posted in the assignment, description may vary from assignment to assignment depending on what is going on in the world.

National Park Research – you can see on the calendar that the last meeting of class will be a day of presentations. You and one or 2 classmates will spend the second half of the semester gathering geologic information on a National Park of your choosing. This project will be assigned and more details given mid-semester.

Final Exam

The Final Exam will be of similar format to the 2 mid-term exams. The exam will be cumulative, covering all the content of the semester including InTeGrate modules or outside-the-book topics presented during the semester. The final exam will be Monday, December 7, at 7am. The time/date of this exam will not change, it is set by HCC administration.

Grading Formula

Grades for this course are earned based on the divisions listed below. Some consideration is given, when assessing borderline grades, to those students who have demonstrated steady progress and who have actively contributed to class sessions during the semester. Grades will be displayed in the Grades tool on Canvas. Note that sometimes the “calculated” total is not accurate due to missing components of grade categories. **(Note: Students are responsible to keep up-to-date on their cumulative grade total.)**

SmartBook reading assignments	= 8%
Quizzes	= 10%
Current Events & other discussions	= 5%
Lecture Exam 1	= 12%
Lecture Exam 2	= 13%
Final Exam	= 17%
Lab Assignments + pre-labs	= 20%
Lab Quizzes	= 5%
Completion of and participation in InTeGrate & other small assignments	= 5%
NP Research Project	= <u>5%</u>
Total	= 100%

Final letter grade will be assigned according to the following scale:

A = 89.5 – 100%, B = 79.5 – 89.4%, C = 69.5 – 79.5%, D = 59.5 – 69.5%, F = ≤ 59.5%

Incomplete Policy:

The Incomplete grade "I" is filled in for a student on a case by case basis. In all cases the student should be up-to-date with assignments and course material at the time the "I" is discussed at the end of the semester. "I" is also used in cases of medical leave. The instructor reserves the right to decline a student's request to receive a grade of Incomplete, except in cases protected by the law.

HCC Grading Scale can be found on this site under Academic Information:
<http://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/student-handbook/>

Course Calendar

DATE	Monday's discussion/week's work	Wednesday Lab (details in EagleOnline)	Wrap-up Week
WEEK 1 Aug 24	Intro to class! Introductions, Overview of Course, What is YOUR geology? and The Nature of Geology	Pre-lab #1: review Boom & Bust concept map & worksheet Lab #1 Boom & Bust: How Econ relates to Rocks	LS Chap. 1: The Nature of Geology Quiz #1 (chap 1 & Unit 2 material)
WEEK 2 Aug 31	LS: Chap 2: Investigating Geologic Questions start Plate Tectonic discussion	Complete Pre-lab #2 Lab 2: Mapping concepts (Lab 9 in lab book)	Quiz #2
	(Sept 7 LABOR DAY – NO Monday class)		
WEEK 3 Sept 7	LS: Chapter 3: Plate Tectonics (part 1) LS: Chapter 3: Plate Tectonics (part 2)	Investigating Geologic Questions, intro plate tectonics jigsaw (3 parts) & more Plate Tectonics	Review your part of plate tectonic jigsaw Quiz #3
WEEK 4 Sept 14	LS: Chapter 4: Earth Materials + sections of chap 18. Earth Materials & Mineral Resources Pre-Unit 1 readings/slides (EO)	Complete Pre-lab #3. Mineral property discussion & Lab #3	Quiz #4 Mineral Resources homework Exam #1 next week!
WEEK 5 Sept 21	Mineral Resources Unit 1 people, products, and minerals Bring Mineral Resource homework	Pre-lab #4 Lab #4 Mineral ID Study for Exam #1	Exam #1 (ch 1-4)
WEEK 6 Sept 28	LS Chapter 5: Igneous Environments (Part 1 & Part 2) Igneous rocks and environments,	Pre-lab #5 due & Lab 5: Igneous rock identification	Quiz #5 & read Chap 7!
	???? do we go in person???		
WEEK 7 Oct 5	LS: Chapter 7: Sedimentary Environments & rocks (part 1 & 2) + Chap 15: weathering + Pre-Unit 4 readings Sedimentary rocks! & Unit 4 min resources created by sed processes	Pre-lab #6 Lab 6: Sedimentary Rocks and sedimentary features	Unit 4 homework Quiz #6
EARTH SCIENCE WEEK! Oct 11 – 17 (extra credit opportunities)			

DATE	Monday's discussion/week's work	Wednesday Lab (details in EagleOnline)	Wrap-up Week
WEEK 8 Oct 12	LS: Chapter 8: Deformation (part 1) + LS: Chap 8: Metamorphism (part 2) Deformation and Metamorphic processes	Pre-lab #7 Lab #7 - Geologic Structures (exercise 10) Pre-lab #8 Lab #8 – Metamorphic Rocks	Finish Lab #7 Quiz #7
WEEK 9 Oct 19	LS: Chap 11: Mountains, Basins and Continents LS: Chapter 9: Geologic Time	Review rocks & minerals, Pre-lab #9 , Lab #9 – Geologic Time (exer 8) Assign NP project	"meet" with NP groups study for Lab Quiz
WEEK 10 Oct 26	LS: Chapter 6: Volcanoes and Volcanic Hazards Volcanoes and Volcanic Hazards	LAB QUIZ #1 (ID minerals & rocks) Pre-lab #10 Lab #10 – Volcanic Hazards?	Quiz #9
Withdrawal deadline: October 30, 2020			
WEEK 11 Nov 2	LS: Chapter 12: Earthquakes & Earth's interior (Part 1 and 2))	(I acknowledge Nov 3 is election night) Pre-lab #11 (activity 16.4, 16.5) Lab 11: Plate Tectonics with Google Earth	Quiz #10 Work on NP projects, finish labs, study Exam #2
WEEK 12 Nov 9	LS: Chap 16: Streams and Flooding (part 1 & 2) + HCFCF TS Allison reading Discuss Rivers!	Pre-lab #12 Lab 12: Google Earth – Rivers	EXAM #2 (chap 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11) NP projects
WEEK 13 Nov 16	LS: Chapter 14: Glaciers, Shorelines, and Changing Sea Levels	LAB TBD, Work on NP projects	Quiz #11 Quiz #12 (ch 14)
NP progress report due Fri Nov 20			
WEEK 14 Nov 23	Chapter 13: Climate, Weather, and their Influences on Geology <i>Discuss climate</i>	LAB TBD	Work on NP projects
THANKSGIVING BREAK Nov 26-29			
WEEK 15 Nov 30	Finalize your presentations Wrap-up semester	Lab Quiz #2	Prepare for final
FINALS WEEK Dec 5 – 12			
FINALS Dec 7	Final Exam 7:00am Mon, Dec 7 It is cumulative and comprehensive.	Do not miss the final exam	

Syllabus Modifications

The instructor reserves the right to modify the syllabus at any time during the semester and will promptly notify students in writing, typically by e-mail, of any such changes. HCC calendar and holiday schedules are available at: <https://www.hccs.edu/student-experience/events-calendar/>

Instructor's Practices and Procedures

Missed Assignments

Exams will have a window of availability. This is to allow everyone to plan and take the exam at their convenience in ~ a day's time. As a rule, **no make-up** exams will be given and a grade of 0 will be earned if an exam is missed. Ideally, students should contact the instructor prior to missing a scheduled examination in-person or by e-mail. An exam can be prepared early with enough advanced notice. Look, things happen. Should an exam be missed due to an exceptional situation beyond the student's control, the situation will be assessed on a case-by-case basis but the instructor should be notified of the situation as soon as possible. There are no make-up quizzes. There are no make-up quizzes (for emphasis). Most quizzes are offered online and have more than a couple days of availability. Also, there will be Bonus Quizzes to make up quiz points.

See the grading criteria below for the weight of the semester's exams in your final score.

Academic Integrity

Grades are not given, they are earned. Feel ownership over your submitted work. All work submitted by you should be completed by you. This includes online quizzes, and exams, and assignments. There are very **few** situations when copy-paste is a recommended tool to use in assignments. Answers should be a student's own explanation and phrasing. If cheating or plagiarism are caught in a quiz the student will receive a "0" for the quiz and will be notified by the instructor. If cheating is discovered during/on an exam the student will receive a "0" score on that exam and the situation will be documented on the Student Conduct Form.

Here's the link to the HCC information about academic integrity (Scholastic Dishonesty and Violation of Academic Scholastic Dishonesty and Grievance):

<http://www.hccs.edu/about-hcc/procedures/student-rights-policies--procedures/student-procedures/>

Attendance Procedures

Attendance will include participation and completion of material in Canvas EagleOnline. Synchronous and in-person lab will also have attendance.

Attendance and participation are crucial for success in class and I will reach out to you if it looks like you have been away from course material for more than a few days. Students who stop attending class and do not withdraw themselves prior to the withdrawal deadline may either be dropped by their professor for excessive absences or be assigned the final grade of "FX" at the end of the semester.

Class starts at 7am. This is early, but this is the time. It is important to log-in, join the meeting or arrive to class (assuming we get to go in person!) on time.

Religious Holidays: Please let me know at least 2 weeks in advance if you know you will miss class due to a religious holiday. See the student handbook for more information.

Student Conduct

It is important to me that all students feel comfortable exploring and expressing geoscience knowledge in class. Please be respectful of classmates and anyone presenting by keeping side conversations to a minimum. We all benefit from questions asked and listening to the answer. Please let me know if you feel bullied, threatened, or uncomfortable by any situation in class or during virtual meetings.

Houston Community College is committed to furthering the cause of social justice in our community and beyond. HCC does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, gender identity and expression, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, or veteran status. I fully support that commitment and, as such, will work to maintain a positive learning environment based upon open communication, mutual respect, and non-discrimination. In this course, we share in the creation and maintenance of a positive and safe learning environment. Part of this process includes acknowledging and embracing the differences among us in order to establish and reinforce that each one of us matters. I appreciate your suggestions about how to best maintain this environment of respect. If you experience any type of discrimination, please contact me and/or the Office of Institutional Equity at 713-718-8271.

Electronic Devices

This is an Online course. Yes, you have electronic devices. Please be respectful during our synchronous class/lab meetings and in-person lab sessions. Keep focused on class discussion and presentations. During class students will be invited to participate in web based surveys or information scavenger hunts. Use any appropriate device!

HCC students can find assistance acquiring technology here: <https://www.hccs.edu/applying-and-paying/financial-aid/additional-technology-related-resources-for-hcc-students/>

Office365

All HCC students, faculty, and staff have access to free downloads of Office365 software in addition to online use of the programs as well. This includes Word, Powerpoint, Excel, Outlook, OneDrive, OneNote, and more. Go to <https://www.office.com/> use your HCC system log-in information (it's your "work" account). Click Office 365 in the top bar and then "Install Office" button on the right side. I highly recommend using the OneDrive cloud storage available to you. Store all your files there to be accessible from anywhere you have internet access. Mobile device apps can be downloaded and connected to your HCC Office365 account as well. Everything is connected!

Instructor's Final Comments

Later in the syllabus is the official statement about housing and food assistance. If you find yourself in a situation where your basic survival needs of food, clothing or shelter are diminished or becoming a challenge please approach one of your professors or HCC staff. We are here to help and point you in the right direction. HCC has developed and is continuing to grow programs to help students with Real Life Problems. #realcollege #RealHCC.

Geology Program Information

The Geology Program faculty are excited you are participating in this course! Please visit the LearningWeb page to find additional information about the HCC Geology degree plan, links to

Geoscience undergraduate programs across Texas, careers in Geosciences, Diversity in Geosciences, and program contact information.
<https://learning.hccs.edu/programs/geology>

Additionally, students can find more information about Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) opportunities and events on the HCC STEM page: <https://www.hccs.edu/stem>

Lab Requirements

Lab attendance and participation is mandatory. The lab exercises and assessments will be 25% of the total course grade. Lab exercises and assignments are designed to complement the lecture and give you hands-on experience with the concepts covered in lecture. Thinking through and understanding lab assignments is a big step toward learning the material. Collaborative group work is emphasized. You can learn from your classmates and they from you.

Instructional Modes (Fall 2020)

Flex Campus (FC)

In person classes where students can choose to participate either on campus or online (streamed from classroom):

<https://www.hccs.edu/campaigns/college-your-way/flex-campus/>

Online on a Schedule (WS)

Fully online, scheduled meetings

<https://www.hccs.edu/campaigns/college-your-way/online-on-a-schedule/>

Online Anytime (WW)

Fully online, no scheduled meetings

<https://www.hccs.edu/campaigns/college-your-way/online-anytime/>

Lab-Based Courses (HL)

Online with required attendance at scheduled labs on campus

<https://www.hccs.edu/campaigns/college-your-way/lab-based-courses/>

HCC Policies

Here's the link to the HCC Student Handbook <http://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/student-handbook/> In it you will find information about the following:

- Academic Information
- Academic Support
- Attendance, Repeating Courses, and Withdrawal
- Career Planning and Job Search
- Childcare
- disAbility Support Services
- Electronic Devices
- Equal Educational Opportunity
- Financial Aid TV (FATV)
- General Student Complaints
- Grade of FX
- Incomplete Grades
- International Student Services
- Health Awareness
- Libraries/Bookstore
- Police Services & Campus Safety
- Student Life at HCC
- Student Rights and Responsibilities
- Student Services
- Testing
- Transfer Planning
- Veteran Services

EGLS₃

The EGLS₃ (Evaluation for Greater Learning Student Survey System) will be available for most courses near the end of the term until finals start. This brief survey will give invaluable information to your faculty about their teaching. Results are anonymous and will be available to faculty and division chairs after the end of the term. EGLS₃ surveys are only available for the Fall and Spring semesters. EGLS₃ surveys are not offered during the Summer semester due to logistical constraints.

<http://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/egls3-evaluate-your-professors/>

Campus Carry Link

Here's the link to the HCC information about Campus Carry:

<http://www.hccs.edu/departments/police/campus-carry/>

HCC Email Policy

When communicating via email, HCC requires students to communicate only through the HCC email system to protect your privacy. If you have not activated your HCC student email account, you can go [to HCC Eagle ID](#) and activate it now. You may also use Canvas Inbox to communicate.

Housing and Food Assistance for Students

Any student who faces challenges securing their foods or housing and believes this may affect their performance in the course is urged to contact the Dean of Students at their college for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so.

Student Resources

COVID 19 Information:

<https://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/communicable-diseases/>

Resources for Students:

<https://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/communicable-diseases/resources-for-students/>

Basic Needs Resources (HCC CARES):

<https://www.hccs.edu/support-services/counseling/hcc-cares/>

Student Basic Needs Application:

https://hccs.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_25WyNx7NwMRz1FH

Office of Institutional Equity

Use the link below to access the HCC Office of Institutional Equity, Inclusion, and Engagement (<http://www.hccs.edu/departments/institutional-equity/>)

Ability Services

HCC strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including long and short term conditions, mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please meet with a campus Abilities Counselor as soon as possible in order to establish reasonable

accommodations. Reasonable accommodations are established through an interactive process between you, your instructor(s) and Ability Services. It is the policy and practice of HCC to create inclusive and accessible learning environments consistent with federal and state law. For more information, please go to <https://www.hccs.edu/support-services/ability-services/>.

Title IX

Houston Community College is committed to cultivating an environment free from inappropriate conduct of a sexual or gender-based nature including sex discrimination, sexual assault, sexual harassment, and sexual violence. Sex discrimination includes all forms of sexual and gender-based misconduct and violates an individual's fundamental rights and personal dignity. Title IX prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex-including pregnancy and parental status in educational programs and activities. If you require an accommodation due to pregnancy please contact an Abilities Services Counselor. The Director of EEO/Compliance is designated as the Title IX Coordinator and Section 504 Coordinator. All inquiries concerning HCC policies, compliance with applicable laws, statutes, and regulations (such as Title VI, Title IX, and Section 504), and complaints may be directed to:

David Cross
Director EEO/Compliance
Office of Institutional Equity & Diversity
3100 Main
(713) 718-8271
Houston, TX 77266-7517 or Institutional.Equity@hccs.edu
<http://www.hccs.edu/departments/institutional-equity/title-ix-know-your-rights/>

Office of the Dean of Students

Contact the office of the Dean of Students to seek assistance in determining the correct complaint procedure to follow or to identify the appropriate academic dean or supervisor for informal resolution of complaints.

<https://www.hccs.edu/about-hcc/procedures/student-rights-policies--procedures/student-complaints/speak-with-the-dean-of-students/>

Department Chair Contact Information

Chair of Department of Natural Sciences:
Dr. Kumela Tafa (kumela.tafa@hccs.edu) office phone: 713-718-5569