



HOUSTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE SOUTHWEST
SYLLABUS FOR GEOL 1403 – PHYSICAL GEOLOGY
Fall, 2010
Class Number 54706 WEB ENHANCED

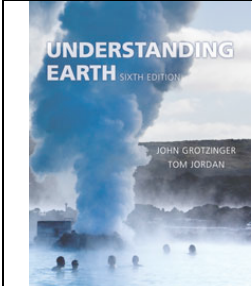
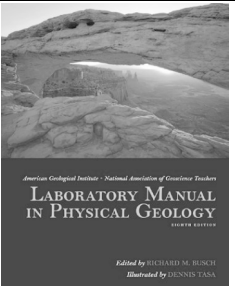
Time and location: Mon & Wed 8am – 11am. West Loop Campus Monday Room C220, Wed Room 164 (lab)

Instructor Information: Karen Yip LearningWeb site: <http://learning.swc.hccs.edu/members/karen.yip/>

Office Hours: Monday noon – 2pm & Tues 4 – 5pm West Loop Faculty Workroom Contact me if you would like to meet at another time to better fit your schedule.

Email: Preferred email is through the mail utility in Blackboard (see below) or at: karen.yip@hccs.edu

Textbook Information: The following two texts are required.

		<p>Textbook: <i>Understanding Earth, 6th ed.</i>, by Grotzinger & Jordan; W.H. Freeman and Co., <u>2010</u> (ISBN 9781429219518) Textbook website: http://bcs.whfreeman.com/understandingearth6e/</p> <p>Lab book: <i>Laboratory Manual in Physical Geology, 8th ed.</i>, edited by Busch, Prentice Hall, 2009 (ISBN 9780136007715). Lab Book website: http://wps.prenhall.com/esm_busch_labmanual_8/</p>
---	---	---

Additional required resource - computer access:

Blackboard is an internet-based course management system that will be used to compliment the classroom course, the course is listed as Web-Enhanced. Additional information on how to access Blackboard and on the nature of the course resources that will be available through it will be provided in class. You are expected to check the Blackboard site every few days to view announcements or messages from me and to submit assignments. <http://online.hccs.edu/> (tutorials and FAQs available) <http://hccs.blackboard.com> (log-in)

Course Description:

Study of the nature of the earth, including the physical processes operating on and inside the earth. Laboratory includes the study of rocks, minerals, and topographic maps. Core Curriculum Course. 4 credit (3 hours lecture, 3 hours lab)

Prerequisites:

Must be placed into college level reading (or take GUST 0342 as a co-requisite) and be placed into college-level writing (or take ENGL 0310/0349 as a co-requisite). In addition you will be expected to use basic math and geometry skills.

Course Intent:

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.

Course Objectives:

1. Define Physical Geology in terms of the Earth's materials, features, and processes that shape landforms.
2. Analyze, organize and contrast Minerals and Rocks in terms of physical properties, textures, and compositions

3. Evaluate the models of Continental Drift and Plate Tectonics.

Many of the following topics are included in the [HCC Student Handbook](#). You should pick up one of these from any HCC campus or refer to it on-line: <http://www.hccs.edu/hccs/current-students/student-handbook>

Attendance:

The HCCS attendance policy is stated as follows: “Students are expected to attend classes regularly. Students are responsible for materials covered during their absences, and it is the student's responsibility to consult with instructors for make-up assignments. Class attendance is checked daily by instructors. Although it is the responsibility of the student to drop a course for non-attendance, the instructor has full authority to drop a student for excessive absences. A student may be dropped from a course for excessive absences after the student has accumulated absences in excess of 12.5% of the hours of instruction (including lecture and laboratory time).”

- Note that 12.5% is approximately 4 classes or labs for a 4 semester hour course, such as this one, which meets two times per week in a normal 16 week semester.

Class attendance, tardiness, and leaving early will be recorded. Tardiness is rude and disruptive, please arrive on time. If you are late to class and miss a quiz you will not be permitted to take the quiz. A student's attendance is taken into consideration when deciding borderline course grades. To the best of your ability, please contact me BEFORE you will be absent so accommodations can be made if possible. I realize that sometimes outside circumstances can interfere with school, but please be aware of the attendance policy. Vacations are not “excused absences”.

If you miss class it is your responsibility to find out what assignments or other class material you missed by asking the professor or your classmates. Not all lab assignments can be made-up depending on content.

*******Collect classmate contact info on the last page of the syllabus.**

Early Alert:

HCC has instituted an Early Alert process by which your professor may “alert” you and counselors that you might fail a class because of excessive absences and/or poor academic performance. A counselor will then reach out to you to discuss your progress and offer any relevant resources. This initiative is designed to provide students with support services and resources to assist them in successfully completing their course.

HCC Course Withdrawal Policy:

If you feel that you cannot complete this course, you will need to withdraw from the course prior to the final date of withdrawal. Before you withdraw, confer with your instructor or a campus counselor as early as possible about your study habits, reading and writing homework, test-taking skills, attendance, course participation, and opportunities for tutoring or other assistance that might be available. **Do not submit a request to discuss withdrawal options less than a day before the deadline.**

HOW TO DROP

- **If a student decides to withdraw from a class upon careful review of other options, the student can withdraw online prior to the deadline through their [HCC Student Center](#).**
- **HCC and/or professors may withdraw students for excessive absences without notification** (see Class Attendance above).

It is the student's responsibility to withdraw from class. The withdrawal deadline is **4:30PM, Nov 18**. **Do not submit a request to discuss withdrawal options less than a day before the deadline.** Failure of a student to officially withdraw from class may result in the student receiving a grade of F for the course. PLEASE REFER TO THE HCC STUDENT HANDBOOK!

Beginning Fall 2007, the State of Texas imposes penalties on students who withdraw/drop courses excessively. Students are limited to no more than SIX total course withdrawals throughout their educational career at a Texas public college or university. Students are encouraged to review the [HCC 6 Drop Policy](#).

Policy Regarding Multiple Repeats of a Course:

“NOTICE: Students who repeat a course three or more times may soon face significant tuition/fee increases at HCC and other Texas public colleges and universities. If you are considering course withdrawal because you are not earning passing grades, confer with your instructor/counselor as early as possible about your study habits, reading and writing homework, test-taking skills, attendance, course participation, and opportunities for

tutoring or other assistance that might be available.”

Student with Disabilities (ADA) and Disability Support Services (DSS):

HCCS is committed to compliance with the American with Disabilities Act and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (section 504)

“Any student with a documented disability (e.g. physical, learning, psychiatric, vision, hearing, etc.) who needs to arrange reasonable accommodations must contact the Disability Services Office at the respective college at the beginning of each semester. Faculty are authorized to provide only the accommodations requested by the Disability Support Services Office”

If you have any special needs or disabilities that may affect your ability to succeed in college classes or participate in college programs/activities, please contact the office of disability support services at the college. Please contact the DSS office as soon as you begin the term. For questions, contact Donna Price at 713 718 5165 or the Disability Counselor at HCC-Southwest: Dr. Becky A. Hauri at 713 718 7909; also see the Schedule of Classes for additional DSS numbers.

Also visit the DSS web site at: <http://www.hccs.edu/hccs/future-students/disability-services>.

HCC Sexual Harassment Policy:

HCC shall provide an educational, employment, and business environment free of sexual harassment. Sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination that is not tolerated at HCC. Any student who feels that he or she is the victim of sexual harassment has the right to seek redress of the grievance. HCC provides procedures for reviewing and resolving such complaints through its Grievance Policy. Substantiated accusations may result in disciplinary action against the offender, up to and including termination of the employee or suspension of the student. In addition, complainants who make accusations of sexual harassment in bad faith may be subject to equivalent disciplinary action.

Academic Honesty:

“Students are responsible for conducting themselves with honor and integrity in fulfilling course requirements. Disciplinary proceedings may be initiated by the college system against a student accused of scholastic dishonesty. Penalties can include a grade of "0" or "F" on the particular assignment, failure in the course, academic probation, or even dismissal from the college. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism, and collusion.”

- **Cheating** includes looking at or copying from another student's exam, orally communicating or receiving answers during an exam, having another person take an exam or complete a project or assignment, using unauthorized notes, texts, or other materials for an exam, and obtaining or distributing an unauthorized copy of an exam or any part of an exam.
- **Plagiarism** means passing off as his/her own the ideas or writings of another (that is, without giving proper credit by documenting sources). Plagiarism includes submitting a paper, report or project that someone else has prepared, in whole or in part.
- **Collusion** is inappropriately collaborating on assignments designed to be completed independently.

These definitions are not exhaustive. When there is clear evidence of cheating, plagiarism, collusion or misrepresentation, a faculty member will take disciplinary action including but not limited to: requiring the student to retake or resubmit an exam or assignment, assigning a grade of zero or "F" for an exam or an assignment; or assigning a grade of "F" for the course. Additional sanctions, including being withdrawn from the course/program or expelled from school, may be imposed on a student who violates the standards of academic integrity. See the HCC Student Handbook for additional details.

Use of Cameras or Recording Devices:

Please talk with me if you would like to use a recording device in class. If you haven't talked with me I will ask you to put the recorder away. Students with disabilities who need to use a recording device as a reasonable accommodation should contact the Office for Students with Disabilities for information regarding reasonable accommodations.

Laboratory Policy:

Lab attendance and participation is mandatory. You must have your lab manual book AND textbook. Lab exercises are designed to give the student hands-on experience with concepts covered in the lecture part of the class. Most lab exercises can be done in small (2 to 3 person) work groups. Usually, one group-prepared lab report will be turned in for grading. Lab assignments must be submitted **within one week** assigned date. **Make sure you hand in your lab assignments.** Notice in the “Grading” section that the cumulative lab assignment grades count for one quarter of your semester grade. If a teammate does not do his/her fair share, please advise me so that grades may be assigned accordingly. You do not need to work with the same labmates each week, especially if you find that they aren’t contributing their fair share. Encourage your classmates to participate and take responsibility for part of the lab exercise.

Tutoring: The Physical Sciences department sponsors free geology tutoring during the semester. The schedule will be finalized within the first few weeks of the semester and will be posted in the classroom and on the department website. Additional FREE tutoring is available from <http://hccs.askonline.net/> with your W#.

Examinations:

Quizzes will be assigned to cover material for one to two chapters at a time. Announced quizzes will be given on-line on the class Blackboard site. Pop quizzes will not be previously announced and will be given at the beginning of a lecture period.

The Mid-Term Exam will consist of a variety of question types including multiple choice, fill-in, short answer, image labeling and sketching. The Mid-Term will cover class lecture material for the first half of the semester.

The Final Exam will have similar question variety as the Mid-Term but will be cumulative and comprehensive for all material throughout the semester.

Lab practical quizzes will also be given covering some of the skills practiced in lab exercises.

Missed Examinations: As a rule, **no make-up** exams will be given and a grade of 0 will be earned if an exam is missed. 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. Ideally, students should contact the instructor prior to missing a scheduled examination in-person or by e-mail.

Grading:

Grades for this course are earned on a point system. 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. (**Note: Students are responsible to keep up-to-date on their cumulative grade total.**)

Quizzes (6 – 8)	=	5% of final grade
Lab Quiz #1	=	5% of final grade
Lab Quiz #2	=	10% of final grade
Mid Term Exam	=	15% of final grade
Final Exam	=	30% of final grade
Lab Assignments	=	25% of final grade
<u>Presentation/Assignments</u>	=	<u>10% of final grade</u>
Total	=	100%

Final letter grade will be assigned according to the following scale: A = 90 – 100%, B = 80 – 89%, C = 70 – 79%, D = 60 – 69%, F = \leq 59%

Extra Credit: There will be a few extra credit opportunities during the semester. These are good opportunities to add more points to your total score.

CLASSMATE INFORMATION

Name of classmate: _____

Phone#, e-mail: _____

Name of classmate: _____

Phone#, e-mail: _____

Class Schedule

Please review the chapter material before coming to class

WEEK	DATE	LECTURES, LABS & EVALUATIONS
week 1	8/30	Introductions, Overview of Course <i>and</i> review of geography
	9/1	Lab 1: Review of metric system and observations & start Lab 2: Mineral Properties
week 2	9/6	LABOR DAY – NO CLASS
	9/8	Chapter 1: The Earth System <i>and</i> Ch. 2 Plate Tectonics
week 3	9/13	Continue Ch 2 Plate Tectonics discussion
	9/15	Finish Lab 2: Mineral Properties & Lab 3: Mineral Identification
week 4	9/20	Chapter 3: Earth Materials: Minerals
	9/22	Lab 3 continued: Mineral Identification
week 5	9/27	Ch. 4 Igneous Rocks
	9/29	Lab 4: Igneous rock identification
week 6	10/4	Ch 5 Sedimentation
	10/6	Lab 5: Sedimentary Rocks and sedimentary features
week 7	10/11	Chapter 6 metamorphism and review for Exam 1
	10/13	Lab 6: Topographic Maps
week 8	10/18	Mid-Term Exam <i>and</i> Chapter 7 deformation
	10/20	Lab Quiz #1 : Rocks and Minerals <i>and</i> Lab 7: Geologic Structures CHOOSE PRESENTATION TOPICS
week 9	10/25	Ch. 12 Volcanoes
	10/27	Lab 8: Google Earth volcanoes & plate tectonics (meet in computer lab)
week 10	11/1	Ch. 12 Volcanoes <i>and</i> example National Park Presentation
	11/3	Lab 9: Volcano types and hazards
week 11	11/8	Ch. 13 Earthquakes
	11/10	Lab 10: Earthquakes and seismicity
week 12	11/15	Ch. 13 Earthquakes continued <i>and</i> Ch. 18 Stream Transport
	11/17	In-class preparation for presentations
		Withdrawal deadline – 4:30PM Thurs, Nov 18
week 13	11/22	Lab 11: Google Earth – Rivers (meet in computer lab)
	11/24	NO CLASS - THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY
week 14	11/29	Ch. 18 continued Stream Transportation and River processes
	12/1	Lab Quiz #2 <i>and</i> Texas geology
week 15	12/6	*** Group National Park Presentations ***
	12/8	Semester wrap-up <i>and</i> Review for Final Exam
FINALS	12/15	WEDNESDAY Final Exam 8am Do not miss the final exam

NOTE: Course Syllabus and Class Schedule subject to modification. Any updates to the syllabus and schedule will be posted on BlackboardVista.