**GEOL 1301 – Earth Science for Non-Science Majors I (Online)**

**Course Syllabus:** Fall 2025



***“Northeast Texas Community College exists to provide personal, dynamic learning experiences empowering students to succeed.”***

**Instructor: Dr. Rebecca Owens**

**Office: No on-campus office**

**Email:** rowens@ntcc.edu

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Office**  **Hours** | **Monday** | **Tuesday** | **Wednesday** | **Thursday** | **Friday** | **Online** |
| By appointment | By appointment | By appointment | 6:00-8:00 pm via Zoom | By appointment | 6:00-8:00 pm Thursdays |

***This syllabus serves as the documentation for all course policies and requirements, assignments, and instructor/student responsibilities.***

*Information relative to the delivery of the content contained in this syllabus is subject to change. Should that happen, the student will be notified.*

**Course Description:** 3 credit hours.

Lecture/Lab/Clinical: Three hours of lecture each week.

Survey of geology, meteorology, oceanography, and astronomy.

**Prerequisite(s):** none

**Student Learning Outcomes:**  Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Explain the current theories concerning the origin of the Universe and of the Solar System.

2. Explain the place of Earth in the Solar System and its relationships with other objects in the

Solar System.

3. Relate the origin and evolution of Earth’s internal structures to its resulting geologic

systems, including Earth materials and plate tectonic activities.

4. Explain the operation of Earth’s geologic systems and the interactions among the

atmosphere, the geosphere, and the hydrosphere, including meteorology and

oceanography.

5. Explain the history of the Earth including the evolution of earth systems and life forms

**Evaluation/Grading Policy:** This course will consist of Discussion Questions, Movie Night questions, Homework assignments, 4 tests and a Midterm and Final exam with the following weight in calculating final course average:

        45% Homework, Discussion Questions, & Movie Night Questions

25% Tests

        15% Midterm Exam

15% Final Exam

**Required Instructional Materials:**

**Publisher:** McGraw-Hill  **ISBN Number:** 9781260364125

**Optional Instructional Materials:** none

**Minimum Technology Requirements:** Access to reliable internet access.

**Required Computer Literacy Skills**: Basic understanding of Blackboard.

**Course Structure and Overview:** This is a completely online course.  Assignments are due weekly; thus, keeping up with the schedule is essential to your success. Your personal schedule must allow you to keep up with the due dates for the assignments. Late work is not allowed in this course, so you must plan your schedule carefully.  EXTRA CREDIT IS NOT OFFERED IN THIS COURSE.

Technical Difficulties:  Technical issues with your computer/tablet/smart phone/internet/wifi are not an excuse to miss deadlines.  This is why assignments should not be put off until near the deadline.

The following items reflect your grading criteria and must all be completed and submitted via Blackboard:

* DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:  Each chapter/topic opens with a set of discussion questions to help you connect what you already know with the new content in the chapter, as well as read other students' experiences and responses. It will be your responsibility to make your initial response to the Discussion Questions (worth 70 points out of 100) before midnight on the Sunday before we start each new chapter.  You will be required to respond to 2 other students' posts before midnight the following Friday (each post worth 15 points).  If you make your initial response to the discussion questions late, but timely complete your response to other students’ posts on Friday, I will accept the assignment submission, but it will have a 20 point late deduction. If you make your initial response to the discussion questions AFTER the due date for all responses, then I will not accept the submission of your discussion questions and it will be considered late (no credit).
* MOVIE NIGHT QUESTIONS:  Each chapter covered in this course includes a related video to watch with associated “Movie Night” questions.  All but one of the questions are multiple-choice, and are simply answered by watching and listening to the movie.  I provide a printable copy of the questions for your convenience if you have printer access, but you will need to turn in your answers through the electronic submission of movie questions.  You have 2 attempts for this type of activity and the highest grade will be recorded.  After watching the video you will be asked to write a paragraph that describes what you learned or things you found most interesting about the video and why, so be prepared to think about how you will answer that as you watch the video.  Your answer to the last question is worth 30 points so please provide at minimum a 6 sentence paragraph with correct spelling, punctuation, and grammar for your answer, and be sure to provide specific information from the video.  Late submissions of the Movie Night Questions will not be accepted.
* HOMEWORK: Homework will be assigned for each chapter and must be turned in on time for full credit (no exceptions). Homework will not be accepted after the due date and will be given a score of zero if turned in late.  Homework is open book with three attempts are allowed up until the due date, but 5% will be deducted from any new attempts.
* TESTS  Four tests will be given during the course using McGraw Hill Proctorio. Tests will be worth 100 points each with two attempts provided and the highest grade recorded. Tests will cover material presented in the associated chapters in the textbook, and homework. All test scores will be included in your final grade. Tests must be taken by the due date; no exceptions.

IN ADDITION TO USING CONNECT FOR YOUR ASSIGNMENTS, BE ADVISED THAT FOR ALL TESTS INCLUDING THE SYLLABUS QUIZ, MIDTERM AND FINAL,  YOU WILL USE MCGRAW HILL PROCTORIO.  If you have never used Proctorio, please click here:[https://proctorio.com/support/setup](https://www.google.com/url?q=https://proctorio.com/support/setup&sa=D&source=editors&ust=1724627514413067&usg=AOvVaw1rcLbSDsTB14UgZdB8XEJd) AS THIS WILL BE REQUIRED TO ACCESS ANY OF THE TESTS, MIDTERM AND FINAL EXAM.

* MIDTERM AND FINAL EXAMS:  The midterm and final exams are 100 questions multiple choice/true false with a 75 minute time limit and you only have one attempt. All midterm and final exam questions come directly off of the Tests, questions in the optional Smartbook Activities, and Homework.  The midterm and final exam can be taken from home, but McGraw Hill Proctorio must be used to take the midterm and final.  The Midterm and Final Exams must be taken by the due date; no exceptions.

**Communications:** Please contact me at [rowens@ntcc.edu](mailto:rowens@ntcc.edu). I will respond to emails within 24 hours.

**Institutional/Course Policy:** Late assignment will not be accepted without a NTCC-approved excuse.

**Alternate Operations During Campus Closure and/or Alternate Course Delivery Requirements**

In the event of an emergency or announced campus closure due to a natural disaster or pandemic, it may be

necessary for Northeast Texas Community College to move to altered operations. During this time, Northeast Texas Community College may opt to continue delivery of instruction through methods that include, but are not limited to, online through the Blackboard Learning Management System, online conferencing, email messaging, and/or an alternate schedule.  It is the responsibility of the student to monitor NTCC’s website (<http://www.ntcc.edu/>) for instructions about continuing courses remotely, Blackboard for each class for course-specific communication, and NTCC email for important general information.

Additionally, there may be instances where a course may not be able to be continued in the same delivery format as it originates (face-to-face, fully online, live remote, or hybrid).  Should this be the case, every effort will be made to continue instruction in an alternative delivery format.  Students will be informed of any changes of this nature through email messaging and/or the Blackboard course site.

**Statement Regarding the Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Technology:**

Absent a clear statement from a course instructor, use of or consultation with generative AI shall be treated analogously to assistance from another person (collusion). Generative AI is a subset of AI that utilizes machine learning models to create new, original content, such as images, text, or music, based on patterns and structures learned from existing data (Cornell, Center for Teaching Innovation). Unauthorized use of generative AI tools to complete an assignment or exam is not permitted. Students should acknowledge the use of generative AI and default to disclosing such assistance when in doubt.  Individual course instructors may set their own policies regulating the use of generative AI tools in their courses, including allowing or disallowing some or all uses of such tools. Students who are unsure of policies regarding generative AI tools are encouraged to ask their instructors for clarification. **(Adapted from the Stanford University Office of Community Standards-- accessed August 31, 2023)**

**NTCC Academic Honesty/Ethics Statement:**

NTCC upholds the highest standards of academic integrity. The college expects all students to engage in their academic pursuits in an honest manner that is beyond reproach using their intellect and resources designated as allowable by the course instructor. Students are responsible for addressing questions about allowable resources with the course instructor. Academic dishonesty such as cheating, plagiarism, and collusion is unacceptable and may result in disciplinary action. This course will follow the NTCC Academic Honesty and Academic Ethics policies stated in the Student Handbook. Refer to the student handbook for more information on these subjects.

**ADA Statement:**

It is the policy of NTCC to provide reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals who are students with disabilities. This College will adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student’s responsibility to request accommodations. An appointment can be made with the Academic Advisor/Coordinator of Special Populations located in Student Services and can be reached at 903-434-8264. For more information and to obtain a copy of the Request for Accommodations, please refer to the special populations page on the NTCC website[.](http://www.ntcc.edu/index.php?module=Pagesetter&func=viewpub&tid=111&pid=1)

**Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)**:

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children’s educational records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are considered “eligible students.” In essence, a parent has no legal right to obtain information concerning the child’s college records without the written consent of the student. In compliance with FERPA, information classified as “directory information” may be released to the general public without the written consent of the student unless the student makes a request in writing. Directory information is defined as: the student’s name, permanent address and/or local address, telephone listing, dates of attendance, most recent previous education institution attended, other information including major, field of study, degrees, awards received, and participation in officially recognized activities/sports.

**Tentative Course Timeline (\*note\* instructor reserves the right to make adjustments to this timeline at any point in the term):**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Week** | **Topics** |
| Weeks One and Two: August 29- September 5 | Course Welcome and Introduction, Scientific Process, The Earth System, Natural Hazards |
| Week Three: September 8-12 | The Earth in Space |
| Week Four: September 15-19 | Near-Earth Objects, **Test One** |
| Week Five: September 22-26 | Plate Tectonics |
| Week Six: September 29-October 3 | Earthquakes and Earth’s Interior |
| Week Seven: October 6-10 | Volcanoes and Other Mountains, **Test Two** |
| Week Eight: October 14-18 | **Midterm Exam** |
| Week Nine: October 20-24 | Minerals |
| Week 10: October 27-31 | Igneous Rocks |
| Week 11: November 3-7 | Sedimentary Rocks |
| Week 12: November 10-14 | Metamorphic Rocks and the Rock Cycle, **Test Three** |
| Week 13: November 17-21 | Geologic Time |
| Week 14: November 24-25 | Oceans and Coastlines |
| Week 15: December 1-4 | Earth’s Climate System, **Test Four** |
| Final Exam Week | **Final Exam** |