

**Blinn College**  
**Course Syllabus Physical Geology - G1403**

**1. COURSE TITLE, NUMBER, AND SECTION(S):**

Physical Geology, CRN# 11438, GEOL1403 – 313, TR 1:25 – 4:05 p.m., Fall 2012

**2. INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:**

Instructor: **Dr. Irina GOLL**

Office: **r. G-245**

Office Hours: **TR 11:00 - 13:00 p.m.; F 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.**

Tel: **(979) 209-7646 (ext. 2)**

E-mail: [irina.goll@blinn.edu](mailto:irina.goll@blinn.edu)

**3. COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

General principles of physical geology. The course is an introduction to the materials, processes, and structure of the earth. Topics include earthquakes, volcanoes, plate tectonics, mountain building, weathering and erosion, glaciation, oceans, and mineral resources. Includes an introduction to geological practices and principles. The laboratory experience includes map interpretation and the study of rocks and minerals. In class time is set at three-class lecture hours and three laboratory hours per week. Credit: Four semester hours.

**4. PREREQUISITES:**

Exemption from or passing score on the reading section of the state test or completion of READ 0306 with a “C” or higher score.

**5. CORE CURRICULUM:**

This is a course in the 42-hour Core Curriculum of Blinn College. As such, students will develop proficiency in appropriate intellectual competencies, exemplary educational objectives and general perspectives. The URL of the Blinn College Core Curriculum Web Site is <http://www.blinn.edu/corecurriculum.htm>.

**6. MEASURABLE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

- Examine and analyze rock and mineral specimens and their occurrence and determine their context within the rock cycle.
- Comprehend plate tectonic theory and evaluate its significance to geology. Relate the nature of Earth’s internal structure and tectonics to geological phenomena (e.g., volcanoes, earthquakes, deformational structures, etc.).
- Understand geologic time and the rock record, including formation of Earth and Solar System. Be able to apply principles of relative and numerical dating.
- Recognize the role of surficial processes (water, wind, ice and gravity) and identify resulting landforms; identification and interpretation of landforms based on topographic maps.
- Relate geology to human affairs; assess geohazard risk (earthquake, volcanoes, floods), and natural resources.

**7. REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS & MATERIALS:**

**Textbook:** *Earth: An Introduction to Physical Geology*, 10th edition, 2010, E.J. Tarbuck, F. K. Lutgens, and D. Tasa, Pearson Prentice Hall, Upper Saddle River, NJ 07458

**Lab Manual:** *AGI-NAGT Laboratory manual in Physical Geology*, 9th Edition, 2011, Editor, R.M. Busch, Pearson Prentice Hall, Upper Saddle River, NJ 07458

**Other materials** are provided by Blinn College.

**Lecture Notes:** are posted on e-Campus Go to - <https://ecampus.blinn.edu/> ).

Supplemental Data and Information:

**Open Geology-aid Lab** – every Friday, G215 from 1:30-3:30 pm,

### 8a. COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

This course has both a lecture and lab components of which participation is required, this include reading the assigned material before coming to class. Good reading habits and reading comprehension skills are important to doing well in this course.

#### The student should do each of the following:

1. Read the assigned chapters in the textbook
2. Participate in class discussions / reviews
3. Complete assigned outside reading material and homework (online quizzes from GEODE Earth)
4. View audiovisual materials on selected topics
5. Complete the exams on the assigned dates; the exams may include questions of different formats: *multiple choice, visual, true – false, word analysis* etc.
6. Download & print out all Lab Assignments from e-campus
7. Read and comprehend each exercise assigned in the Laboratory Manual before coming to class.
8. Successfully complete each laboratory exercise in class.
9. Learn to use and/or analyze geological material and maps as needed to complete the laboratory exercise.

### 8b. EXAM AND MAJOR ASSIGNMENT CALENDAR:

Date	Lecture Exams	Date	Lab Exams
September 20	Exam I	October 9	Lab Exam I
October 18	Exam II	December 6	Lab Exam II
November 8	Exam III		
December 4	Exam IV		
<b>December 13</b>	<b>Final Exam 12:45-2:45</b>		

### 9. CRITERIA FOR GRADING AND DETERMINING FINAL GRADE:

This class has 4 lecture exams, 2 lab exams, 1 final exam, 20 home quizzes and 12 Lab quizzes, 20 lab exercises, and 1 to 2 reading assignments. Course grade is based on a total of 1000 class points. Breakdown of the point distribution and grading scheme is shown below.

Lecture Exams (4 @ 100 points each)	400 points	<b>GRADES</b>
Home Quizzes (20 @ 2 points each)	40 points	900-1000 points = <b>A</b>
Lab Exercises (20 @ 5 points each)	100 points	800-899 points = <b>B</b>
Lab Quizzes (12 @ 5 points each)	60 points	700-799 points = <b>C</b>
Lab Exams (2 @ 100 points each)	200 points	600-699 points = <b>D</b>
Final Exam:	200 points	<i>below 600 points = F</i>
Total:	<u>1000 points</u>	

The Lecture Exams and Final Exam contain a variety of question formats including: **multiple choice, true-false, fill in the blank, word analysis**, and **visual**.

Please, bring **Advantage Scantron** (green/gray, 100 questions each side) and a **#2 pencil** for each EXAM (except for Lab Exam #2 – NO Scantrons).

The **Lab Exams** are practical “**hands-on**” exams. They will be administered at the Blinn College Campus class rooms and can **NOT** be taken at the Learning Center.

If you cannot take the Lecture Exams at Blinn College Campus together with your class (see Make-ups paragraph) contact your instructor, so that other arrangements can be made at the Learning Center.

**Lab and Lecture Assignments:** Students have to read the recommended chapters and Lab works **before** the classes. **Lab Manual** must be brought for **every** lab work.

**Make-ups:** There will be no make-up exams, except for the cases listed below

- A. **hospitalized** before *or* the day of exam;
- B. **got into a car accident** the day of exam;
- C. **death** in the family;

D. absence due to one of the forms of excused absence officially designated by Blinn College;

A document (*doctor's note from the hospital, photocopy of police report, obituary etc*) must be presented to the Instructor to justify the make up of the exam.

**Attention:** Make-up Lab Assignments will not be graded.

**Extra Credit:** Students can earn extra credit points toward the final grade in a way:

1. Answering the bonus-points questions given at the end of each exam.
2. 98-100 % participation in the lectures and labs – **20 points**.

**Extra credit points** will be **totaled** with the other credit points.

## 10. BLINN COLLEGE POLICIES:

### a. Civility Statement:

Members of the Blinn College community, which includes faculty, staff and students, are expected to act honestly and responsibly in all aspects of campus life. Blinn College holds all members accountable for their actions and words. Therefore, all members should commit themselves to behave in a manner that recognizes personal respect, and demonstrates concern for the personal dignity, rights, and freedoms of every member of the College community, including respect for College property and the physical and intellectual property of others. Civility applies to attire as well as language, behavior, and cell phones.

### Civility Notification Statement:

If a student is asked to leave the classroom or have access to the online classroom denied because of uncivil behavior, the student may not return to that class until he or she arranges a conference with the instructor. It is the student's responsibility to arrange for this conference.

This statement reflects step one in a possible four step process. The Incivility Protocol is detailed in the *Blinn College Student Handbook*, [www.blinn.edu/student%20handbook.pdf](http://www.blinn.edu/student%20handbook.pdf)

### b. Attendance policy:

The College District believes that class attendance is essential for student success; therefore, students are required to promptly and regularly attend all their classes. A record of attendance will be maintained from the first day of classes and/or the first day the student's name appears on the roster through final examinations. If a student has **one week's** worth (**2 classes**) of unexcused absences during the semester, he or she will be sent an e-mail by the College District requiring the student to contact his or her instructor and schedule a conference immediately to discuss his/her attendance issues. Should the student accumulate **two weeks'** worth (**4 classes**) of unexcused absences, he or she will be administratively withdrawn from class.

There are four forms of excused absences recognized by the institution:

1. Observance of religious holy days - The student should notify his or her instructor(s) not later than the 15th day of the semester concerning the specific date(s) that the student will be absent for any religious holy day(s);
2. representing the College District at an official institutional function;
3. high school dual credit students representing the independent school district at an official institutional function; and
4. military service.

Other absences may be considered excused at the discretion of the faculty member with appropriate documentation. A student enrolled in a developmental course is subject to College District-mandated attendance policies. Failure to attend developmental classes shall result in removal from the course as defined by the College District.

It is the student's responsibility to officially drop a class he or she is no longer attending. To officially drop a class the student must obtain the class withdrawal form from Enrollment Services, complete the class withdrawal form, secure the required signatures, and return the completed form to Enrollment Services. The last day to drop this semester with a Q is **November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012**.

### **How attendance will be implemented in my class:**

Attendance will be taken in each lecture and lab class. A lecture sign-in sheet will be posted during the **first 20 min of lecture** and a lab sheet will be posted for students to sign **upon completion of the lab work**; it is

the student's responsibility **to sign each time!** You must be present from the **start** of the class to the **end** in order to receive credit for the day (unless a special arrangement has been made with me in advance). If you must miss a class meeting please **contact me** in advance (by e-mail or in person) and make arrangements to get the information that is to be covered. In some cases prior arrangements may be made to attend another lab or lecture section but this must be cleared with me in advance.

**Attention:** If a student miss **lecture or lab** (or both) it counts as **one absence**.

**c. Scholastic Integrity.** Blinn College does not tolerate cheating, plagiarism, or any other act of dishonesty with regard to the course in which you are enrolled. The following text defines the faculty member's responsibility with regard to the scholastic integrity expectation for this and all courses at Blinn College.

It is the responsibility of faculty members to maintain scholastic integrity at the College District by refusing to tolerate any form of scholastic dishonesty. Adequate control of test materials, strict supervision during testing and other preventive measures should be utilized, as necessary, to prevent cheating or plagiarism. If there is compelling evidence that a student is involved in cheating or plagiarism, the faculty member should assume responsibility and address the infraction. Likewise, any student accused of scholastic dishonesty is entitled to due process as outlined in Blinn College Board Policy FLB (Local). The Scholastic Integrity Policy is located in the *Blinn College Student Handbook*, (Link at; [www.blinn.edu/student%20handbook.pdf](http://www.blinn.edu/student%20handbook.pdf) ). In a case of scholastic dishonesty, it is critical that written documentation be maintained at each level throughout the process.

**d. Students with Disabilities.** Blinn College is dedicated to providing the least restrictive learning environment for all students. Support services for students with documented disabilities are provided on an individual basis, upon request. Requests for services should be made directly to the Office of Special Populations serving the campus of your choice. For the Bryan campus, the Office of Special Populations (Administration Building) can be reached at (979)209-7251. The Brenham, Sealy and Schulenburg campuses are served by the Office of Special Populations on the Brenham campus (Administration Building Room 104) and can be reached at (979)830-4157. Additional information can be found at <http://www.blinn.edu/Disability/index.html> .

*Note:* Do this as soon as possible so that documentation and accommodations can be arranged it may take a couple of weeks to get the forms if you wait. I cannot give any accommodation to students without the Disability Coordinator's consent.

**e. Final Grade Appeals Policy.** If a student wishes to appeal a final grade in a course, Blinn College Board Policy FLDB (Local), Course Grade Complaints, outlines the timeline for the appeal and the four steps in the appeal. This policy is located in the *Blinn College Student Handbook*, (Link at: [www.blinn.edu/student%20handbook.pdf](http://www.blinn.edu/student%20handbook.pdf) ).

**f. Electronic Devices.** All the functions of all personal electronic devices designed for communication and/or entertainment (cell phones, pagers, beepers, iPods, and similar devices) must be turned off and kept out of sight in all College District classrooms and associated laboratories. Any noncompliance with this policy shall be addressed in accordance with the College District Civility Policy (Administrative Policy). This information is contained in Blinn College Board Policy FLB (Local).

**g. Problem Resolution.** If you have a complaint about your class, you should first request a conference with your instructor to try and resolve the problems or issues. If the problems or issues cannot be resolved at the instructor level, you should request a conference with the Division Chair, Mr. Dwight Bohlmeier, Science 241, [dbohlmeier@blinn.edu](mailto:dbohlmeier@blinn.edu) .

**h. Health Concerns.** Food and drink containers are not allowed in either the lab or the classroom during lab or lecture activities.

**i. Dress.** Students should dress in appropriate clothing for the classroom and lab.

*\*Additional Faculty Guidelines.*

**j. Student E-mails.** Students are assigned a Blinn College E-mail address that must be checked regularly for official Blinn College communications and course information. Students should check their account regularly.

## 11. COURSE CONTENT AND SCHEDULE:

Section 313, Tuesday, Thursday 1:25 - 4:05 p.m. (r.G-215);

### Course Content

Week # Date	Chapter	Lecture Topic	Laboratory (Lab # is given as it is listed in Lab Manual)	Laboratory Topic
1 Aug. 28 Aug. 30	1 2	Intro to Geology Third Planet	1 4	Scales, processes; Rock Cycle (movie & quiz)
2 Sep. 4 Sep. 6	2, 3 3	Plate Tectonics, Mineral Properties Matter & Minerals	3A 2; 3B	Mineral Properties Plate Tectonics; Minerals identification
3 Sep. 11 Sep. 13	3 4	Matter & Minerals (cont.) Igneous Rocks	3C 5A	Silicates & Nonsilicates Igneous Rocks
4 Sep. 18 <b>Sep. 20</b>	5 6	Volcanoes <b>Lecture Exam I</b>	5B <i>lecture</i>	Igneous Rocks (unknown) Weathering & Soil
5 Sep. 25 Sep. 27	7 7	Sedimentary Rocks Sedimentary structures & environments	Weathering 6A,B	Weathering & Soil Sedimentary Rocks
6 Oct. 2 Oct. 4	8 23	Metamorphism <i>Min.Resources</i> & Energy	6B & 7A 7B	Sedim. & Metam. Rocks Metamorphic Rocks (unknown) <i>Review for Lab Exam I</i>
7 <b>Oct. 9</b> Oct. 11	9	<i>no lecture</i> , <b>Lab Exam I</b> Geologic Time	<i>No lab</i> 8	<b>Exam: Minerals &amp; Rocks</b> Dating of Rocks & Fossils
8 Oct. 16 <b>Oct. 18</b>	10	Crustal Deformation <b>Lecture Exam II</b>	10	Geologic Structures
9 Oct. 23 Oct. 25	11 12	Earthquakes Earth's Interior	16 movie	Earthquakes "Earth Interior" & quiz
10 Oct. 30 Nov. 1	13 14	Divergent boundaries Convergent boundaries	9 (intro) 9 (A & B)	Topo Maps Topo Maps
11 Nov. 6 <b>Nov. 8</b>	15	Mass Wasting <b>Lecture Exam III</b>	9 (C & D)	Topo Maps <i>Labs Review</i>
12 Nov. 13 Nov. 15	16 17	Running Water Groundwater	11 12	Streams Groundwater
13 Nov, 20 <b>Nov. 21-23</b>	18	Glaciers <b>HOLIDAYS</b>	13	Glacier processes
14 Nov. 27 Nov. 29	19 20	Deserts Shorelines	14 15	Drylands Shorelines
15 <b>Dec. 4</b> <b>Dec. 6</b>		<b>Lecture Exam IV</b> <b>Lab Exam II</b>		<i>Review for Lab Exam II</i>

December 13, Thursday, Final Exam, 12:45 - 2:45 p.m., room G - 215