

GEOL-1403 Physical Geology

Spring 2017

GEOL-1403-01: MWF 9:00-9:50 AM Lee Drain Building, Room 319

GEOL-1403-02: MWF 10:00-10:50 AM Lee Drain Building, Room 319

Lab as scheduled



Instructor: Dr. Gary Acton

Office: Lee Drain Building, Room 322

Phone: (936) 294-1454

Email: gdacton@shsu.edu

Office Hours: MF 1:30-3:00 PM. Alternatively, drop by my office when the door is open or make an appointment.

Course Description for GEOL-1403 (Formerly known as GEL-133 & GEOL-1303/1103): An introduction to the materials, processes, and structure of the earth. Topics include formation of the solar system, plate tectonics, earthquakes, volcanoes, mountain building, weathering and erosion, glaciation, oceans, and mineral resources. No prerequisite. 4 Credits.

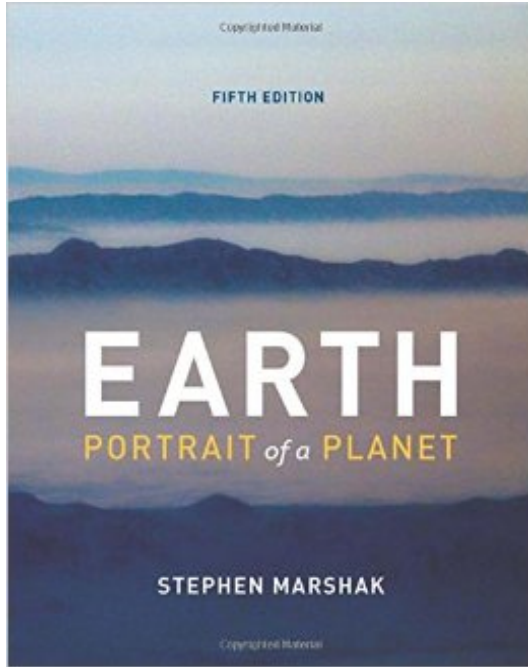
Objectives: Learn about the formation and evolution of Earth, Earth materials (minerals and rocks), Earth processes (plate tectonics, volcanism, erosion, earthquakes, mountain building, etc.), and the interrelationships among the various components of the Earth.

Required Text Book:

Earth: Portrait of a Planet, 5th Edition,
eBook ONLY with SmartWork

by Stephen Marshak.

ISBN: 978-0-393-93518-9

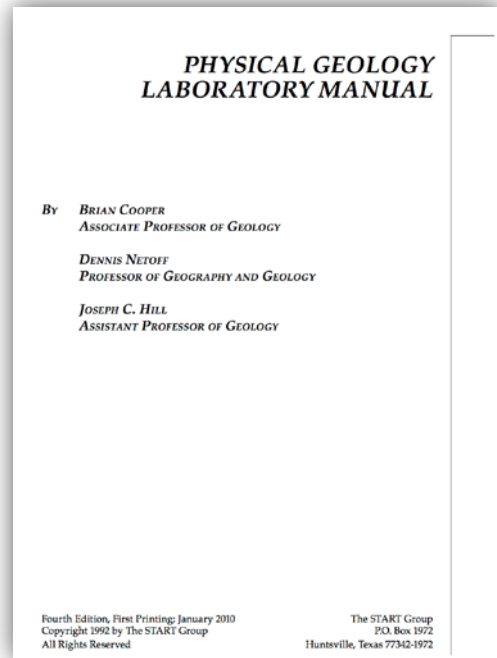


Required Lab Manual:

Physical Geology Laboratory Manual,
4th Edition, 1992, by Brian Cooper,

Dennis Netoff, and Joseph C. Hill.

Available in the SHSU Bookstore



SHSU Guidelines and Policies: This course follows SHSU guidelines and policies. These are listed for [Academic Honesty](#), [Student Absences on Religious Holy Days](#), [Students with Disabilities Act](#), and [Visitors in the Classroom](#) on the SHSU web site at <http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>.

Special Request: Please silence and put away your cell phones at the beginning of each class and do not retrieve them or use them until the class has ended.

Class Schedule: The “Class Schedule”, with its lists of topics, test dates, homework assignments, reading assignments, etc. is provided separately and is **subject to change**. It will be on Blackboard and I will send a Blackboard notification each time it is updated. Likewise, details on assignment will be provided separately.

Grading:

- The standard SHSU grading scale will apply as discussed at <http://www.shsu.edu/gradcat/scholasticrequirements.html>.
- For this course, letter grades will be associated with the following: percentiles: $\geq 90\%$ = A, 89-80% = B, 79-70% = C, 69-60% = D, $< 60\%$ = F.
- A curve will be used as necessary.
- Extra credit assignments will be done at the instructor's discretion.
- Grades in this course will be based on the following:
 - Laboratory (see below) 25% All Semester
 - Assignments, Quizzes, Participation and Attendance (see below) 36% All Semester
 - Midterm Exam #1 12% Late September
 - Midterm Exam #2 12% Late October
 - Final Exam (comprehensive) 15% See SHSU Final Exam Schedule on the Web

Assignments, Quizzes, Participation, and Attendance: You will have about 6-12 assignments and quizzes that will be given out throughout the semester. The quizzes may be pop quizzes or I may warn you in advance. Some quizzes may be completed by the effort of the whole class during class time. Other quizzes and assignments may be completed on Blackboard or in SmartWork. The assignments may be short writing assignments, research assignments, or in class assignments.

Credit for **class participation** can be attained by paying attention, contributing to the class by answering questions asked by the instructor, raising thoughtful questions particularly when you do not understand something, joining in class discussions, and completion of in-class assignments or pop-quizzes. You will lose credit if you are disruptive or cause distractions, such as by texting, emailing, or using social networks during class*.

Credit for **attendance** can be attained by regular and punctual class attendance. If you miss a lecture, it is your responsibility to obtain the material presented in the lecture from a fellow student. Attendance will be computed as follows:

- Full credit for attending all lectures. There are about 40 lectures/semester.
- You have 3 free absences, for which you need no excuse. There is no penalty or points deducted for missing up to 3 classes. NOTE: if tests or in-class assignments occur on the day you miss, then you lose credit for those events.
- If you miss more than 3 lectures, 1% of your total grade will be deducted for each additional lecture missed, up to a total of 10%. Hence, you will lose 10% of your total grade if you miss 13 or more lectures.
- Three tardies (arriving late for class), will be equivalent to missing one lecture.

****You will LOSE 1% of your total grade for each time I have to warn you about using your cell phone inappropriately in class.***

Make-up Exams, Assignments, and Late Work:

- Make-up exams 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 or assignment, which must be completed within one week of the missed exam or assignment. ***There will be no make-up exam for the final.***
- Assignments handed in late will have the following amount deducted:
 - 20% if handed in within two work days of the stated deadline.
 - 50% if handed in later than two work days but within a week of the deadline.
 - 100% (no credit) if later than a week after the deadline.

Laboratory: The Physical Geology Laboratory is part of the class. The lab is worth 25% of the total grade. Your Laboratory Instructor will provide Dr. Cooper (The Department Chairperson) with your laboratory grade, he will compile them and curve them if necessary, and then he will provide the grades to me. Whatever he gives me will be incorporated in your total grade. **NOTE: If you miss more than 2 labs, you will get a ZERO for 25% of your grade, which means it is highly likely you will fail the course.** If you have any problems in the lab, please see me for assistance.

Labs begin the week of January 30 – February 3.

Mid-Term Exam Dates will be announced in class.

Final Exam dates are based on those listed at:

<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/registrar/calendars/final-exam-schedules.html>

GEOL-1403-01: Wednesday May 10th at 9:30 am – 11:30 am

GEOL-1403-02: Monday May 8th at 10:30 am – 12:30 pm