

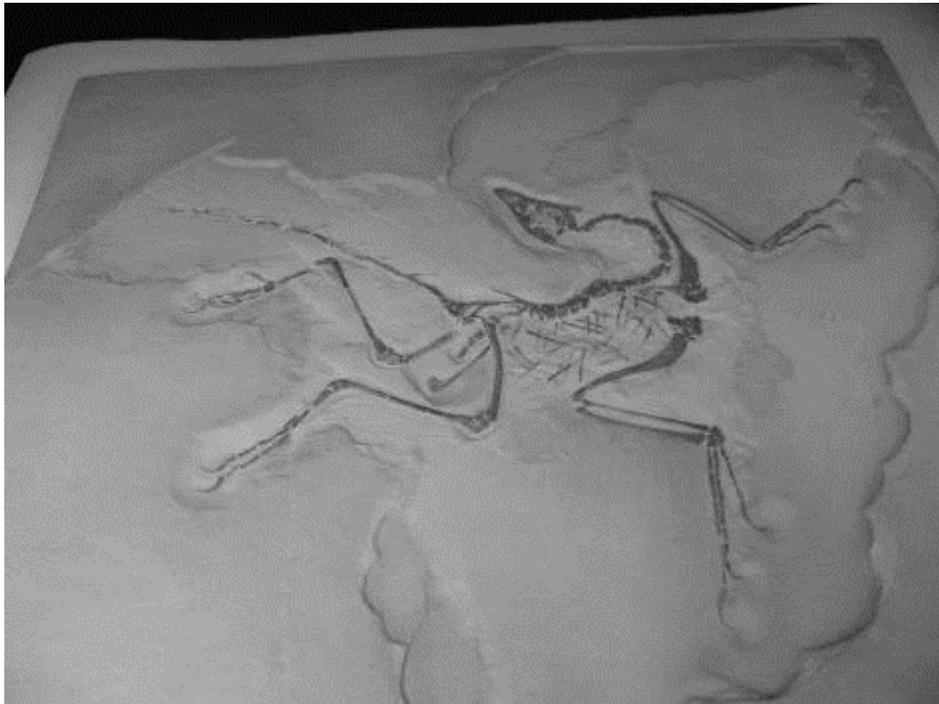
COURSE SYLLABUS

# GEOL 1404

## Historical Geology

4 SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS  
Spring 2017

Professor: Jonathan Sumrall, Ph.D.  
(SHSU Tel: 41593)  
(e-mail: [karst@shsu.edu](mailto:karst@shsu.edu))



**Course Syllabus:**  
**GEOL 1404 Historical Geology Section 01**

**4 Semester Credit Hours**

**Spring 2017**

**Room:** LDB 207

**Classes meet:** T TR 11 am – 12:20 pm

**Professor:** Jonathan Sumrall, Ph.D.

**Phone:** 294-1593

**Office Hours:** T TR 10-11 am or by appointment

**Office:** LDB 312

**Email:** [Karst@shsu.edu](mailto:Karst@shsu.edu)

**Course Description:** An introduction to the history of the earth and its past inhabitants, including a section on the dinosaurs and their extinction. This course gives a broad overview of the tectonic evolution of the planet, indicated by various major mountain-building events; ancient environments and changing sea levels recorded in sedimentary deposits; and the evolution of life represented by the fossil record. No prerequisite.

**Course Philosophy:** GEOL 1404 is designed as an entry-level course for any student with an interest in the history of Earth. The intent is to provide an interesting and stimulating course, with a high degree of student interaction. Students are expected to come to class prepared, to engage in discussion, and to challenge the instructor. The course will depart from the Syllabus to meet specific interests of the class. Cell phones must be off or on vibrate.

**Objectives:**

- An understanding of the history of Earth systems
- Gain factual knowledge (terminology, classifications, methods, and trends) of historical geology
- A broad understanding of tectonic history of North America
- Learn fundamental principles, generalizations, and theories of geology
- Learn to apply principles (improving thinking, problem solving, and decisions)

**Course Text:** The Earth through time Tenth Edition by Harold Levin

**ISBN:** 9781118254677

**Workload:**

There are 550 total points available for the lecture. Your grade will be based on your performance on **three lecture exams, ~13 quizzes of which the top 10 will count toward your grade (administered through Blackboard), and a comprehensive final exam.** Exams may include any of the following: multiple choice, true/false, identification, and short answer based on lectures and reading assignments.

Each lecture exam will be worth 100 points. Quizzes will be worth 10 points each for a total of 100 points. The final exam will be comprehensive and worth 100 points. There will be no extra credit and no curve in the course.

Exam 1 -----	100pts
Exam2 -----	100pts
Exam 3 -----	100pts
Final -----	150pts
Quizzes -----	100 pts
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Total	550 pts

Laboratory grades will count as 25% of the total grade. Everyone must pass the **lecture and laboratory** to pass the class. The laboratory average will be multiplied by 0.25 and the lecture average will be multiplied by 0.75. For example, if one receives a 74% average in lecture and a 93% average in lab. To calculate the average for the course, take  $74\% \times 0.75 = 55.5$  and take  $93\% \times 0.25 = 23.25$ . Add the results  $55.5 + 23.25 = 78.75\%$  average for the course.

Labs start the week of September 12<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Joseph Hill is the lab coordinator in charge of lab. Any questions regarding labs should be directed to him.

### **Due Dates and Timetables:**

Exams will be given during the class period on the dates listed below. Do not miss an exam! If you have an approved excused absence, a make-up exam will be scheduled at the professor's convenience. **EVERYONE MUST TAKE THE FINAL EXAM.**

**Exam 1:** Feb 16    **Exam 2:** Mar 23    **Exam 3:** April 20

**Final Exam:** Thursday, May 11 from 12-2 pm

### **Grading Scale:**

A = 90 - 100%	B = 80 - 89%	C = 70 - 79%
D = 60 - 69%	F = 59% and below	

### **Online Quizzes:**

Quizzes will come directly from reading assignments and lecture material. Please complete the reading assignments prior to attempting the online quizzes. Quizzes will be posted to Blackboard each Thursday before class and will close each Thursday at the start of class. You may access the quiz by logging into Blackboard at:

<https://shsu.blackboard.com>

### **No Class: March 13 - 17**

### **Academic Honesty:**

I expect you to fulfill your academic obligations through honest and independent effort. If I have sufficient reason to believe you are cheating on any graded work in this course, you will be dropped from the course with a failing grade. You may refer to the SHSU Academic Policy Manual, student section, Policy #810213 for specific language.

### **Americans with Disabilities Act:**

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance should register with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Lee Drain Annex (telephone 936-294-3512, TDD 936-294-3786, and e-mail [disability@shsu.edu](mailto:disability@shsu.edu)). They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Services for Students with Disabilities and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: No accommodation can be made until you register with the Services for Students with Disabilities. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/documents/aps/students/811006.pdf>

### **Class Policies on Attendance/Behavior:**

The university requires that I take attendance for the course. *More than **eight** absences (for any reason) will result in a failing grade for the course, regardless of your earned grade.* Your attendance, motivation, and participation are integral to your success in this course. Regular attendance is by far the easiest way to achieve a good grade in this course. I implore you to attend each and every class and to actively participate.

- Come to class on time – there is no reason to be late to class on a frequent basis. Habitual tardiness is unacceptable.
- Remain in class until it is finished. Leaving early will count as an absence unless you have cleared it with me or unless it is an emergency.
- You cannot leave the class during an exam unless there is a medical emergency
- If you arrive after the first person has left an exam or quiz, you will not be permitted to take the exam.
- During lectures and tests, cell phones and any other equipment capable of receiving, recording, and/or transmitting information must be put away in a book bag or purse. (In short, it must not be readily accessible or accessed during class).
- If **you** decide to drop the course, it is **your** responsibility to fill out the necessary paperwork or you will receive a grade based upon your performance in the class regardless of the amount of work you completed.

### **Lecture Topics and Schedule:**

Syllabus, Course Introduction, Chapter 1  
Chapter 2 – History of Geology  
Chapter 3 – Geologic Time  
Chapter 4 – Rocks and Minerals  
Exam 1 and Chapter 5 – Sed Rocks  
Chapter 6 - Fossils  
Chapter 7 – Plate Tectonics  
Chapters 8 and 9 – Precambrian Earth  
Exam 2 and Chapter 10 – Early Paleozoic  
Chapter 11 – Late Paleozoic  
Chapter 12 – Life of the Paleozoic  
Chapter 13 – Mesozoic Tectonics  
Exam 3 and Chapter 14 – Mesozoic Life  
Chapter 14 - Dinosaurs  
Final Exam