

COURSE SYLLABUS

GEL 133-03
PHYSICAL GEOLOGY
SPRING 2008

Professor: Dr. Charles Shaw
email address: ces023@shsu.edu

You are responsible for the information on this syllabus. Please read through it carefully.

GEL 133 Physical Geology

Course Description

This 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, among others. Goals include honing an ability to form testable questions and an understanding the nature of scientific hypotheses and their testing.

Course Requirements

1. Textbook: *Essentials of Geology*, Lutgens, F. & Tarbuck, E., 9th edition, Prentice Hall, Inc. You may use the 8th edition, if you wish, but check to see that used books have the CD attached on the inside back cover.

It is essential to do the assigned readings in order to fully understand the concepts presented. Make use of the CD inside the back cover of the text, also Prentice Hall has a companion website at (www.prenhall.com/lutgens/), but many of the exercises are ambiguous, so I am only requiring certain chapters.

3 Credit Hours

Spring 2008

Professor: Charles Shaw
Office: LDB 314
Telephone: (936) 294-1560
email: ces023@shsu.edu

Office Hours: 11:00 – 1:00 MWF

I have an open door policy, so you're welcome to drop by whenever you have a question. My office hours are when I'll definitely be in my office, so if you want to be sure to catch me at other times please call or email ahead of time. You are also welcome to ask questions via email. Use the phone only for the most urgent problems.

Blackboard

I'll be making extensive use of Blackboard. There you will find reading assignments, notes, external links, tests, and so on for the entire course. I will regularly upload any changes or additions to your reading. You will also be making use of a companion website provided by the publisher of the text book.(see below).

Homework Exercises on Blackboard are being revised. A revised homework set will be posted as they are developed. Policies will be announced later.

Grading and Assessment

Exams: 4 @ 100 pts each: **400 points**

Homework: For your use as a study guide, not directly part of your grade.

A separate study guide will be available to help you prepare for tests. See course schedule under Course Documents on Blackboard.

Exercises: Total of 100 points. Exercises are problems that will assist you in learning to think like a scientist and are being developed as the course proceeds. They must be turned in on time and they will be graded. The total number of exercises will be determined as we proceed.

Total points: 500

Grading Scale:

90-100%	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
60-69%	D
0-59%	F

Grades for each test and for assigned exercises will be available online on Blackboard, accessible through the SHSU website.

Your final grade will be rounded to the nearest whole percentage.

Final grades will NOT be curved. If any of the four tests are not taken, the final course grade will be F. If any of the exercises are not completed you will receive a grade of zero for that exercise.

No grades can be given out by telephone or individual e-mail.

Exams will cover material from your reading assignments, PowerPoint lectures, and exercises

Attendance and Make-up Policies: The SHSU Undergraduate Catalog states that "Regular and punctual attendance is expected for each student at Sam Houston State University." Accordingly, the University requires each instructor to keep a record of student attendance.. In order for an absence to be excused, **some form of documentation MUST be provided.**

Make-up exercises and exams will only be allowed with my approval.

Make arrangements in advance

Attendance and Courtesy

1. Persons who arrive late disrupt the class and may be counted as absent. The University allows nine class hours of absence without penalty (6 T-day classes or 9 M-day classes). No excuses are required. However, absences in excess of nine may result in course failure. Consequently, I will not grade quizzes of students who have exceeded the absence limit without proper excuse.
2. Conduct: Any individual action that is perceived to be detrimental to the learning environment of the class will receive one warning. Any subsequent disruption will result in the student being dropped permanently from the course. Disruptions include such actions as *excessive talking, excessive tardiness, sleeping in class, leaving during lecture, etc.*

Academic Conduct

SHSU expects all students to do their work in an honest manner. Cheating on an exam will be penalized, at the minimum, with an automatic F on that exam. If there is strong evidence for academic dishonesty, the University may initiate disciplinary or legal action.

University policy: *"All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on examinations or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and abuse of resource materials."*

Disabled Student Policy

SHSU is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to ensure full learning opportunities for students with disabilities. If you have a disability which may affect your academic performance, please request assistance from the Counseling Center, located on campus in the Lee Drain Building Annex (phone 936-294-1720), in a timely manner. All disclosures will be kept in strict confidentiality

Americans with Disabilities Act:

University Policy: *"It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that no otherwise qualified disabled individual shall, solely by reason of his/her handicap, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under and academic or Student Life program or activity. Disabled students may request assistance with academically related problems stemming from individual disabilities by contacting the Director of the Counseling Center in the Lee Drain Annex or by calling (936) 294-1720. Any student seeking accommodations should go to the*

GEL 133 Course syllabus

Physical Geology

Counseling Center and Service for Students with Disabilities in a timely manner and complete a form that will grant permission to receive special accommodations.