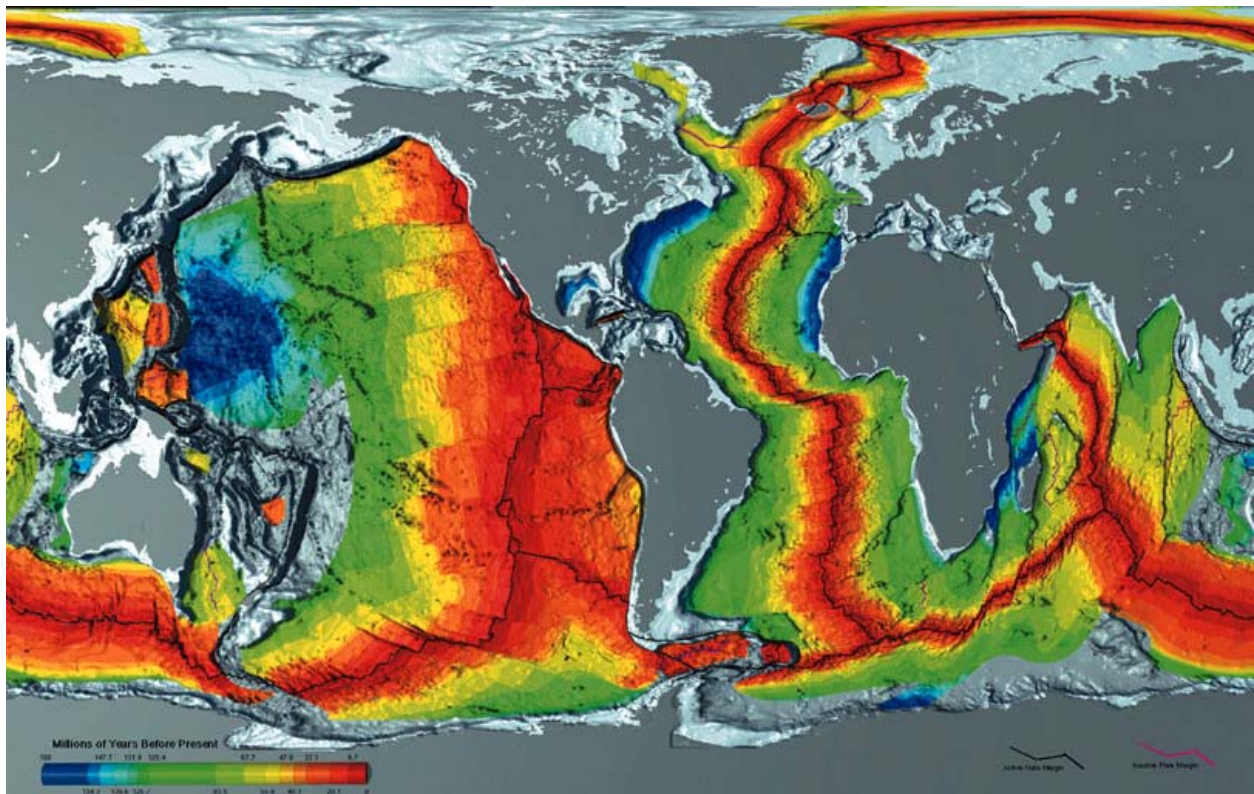


COURSE SYLLABUS
GEL 437
PLATE TECTONICS
3 SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS
Fall 2007

Professor: Dr. Brian Cooper
(SHSU Tel: 41566)
(e-mail: bjcooper@shsu.edu)



From NOAA

COURSE SYLLABUS

GEL 134 Historical Geology

3 Semester Credit Hours

Fall 2007(Odd years)

Room: LDB 319
Classes meet: MWF 1100-1200
Professor: Brian Cooper
Office: LDB 300C
Tel: 41566
e-mail: bjcooper@shsu.edu
Office Hours: 10-10.50 class days or by appointment

Course Description

An introduction to the movement of lithospheric plates. Topics to be covered include earthquakes, volcanism, seismic tomography, the evolution of continents and ocean basins, and the influence of the earth's interior on these processes. Lecture only. Writing Enhanced.

Prerequisites: GEL 133/113 or 132/112, with GEL 134/114 highly recommended.

Methods: Lectures

Assessment: Quizzes (3x 15%), Scientific Poster (25%), Final Exam (30%)

Grading: **4 exams x 100 points each = 400 points. No extra credit.**

Grading Scale: 400-360=A; 359-320=B; 319-280=C; 279-240=D; ≤239=F

Objectives:

- Scientific thinking and analysis
- To obtain an understanding of the petrologic and seismic aspects of plate tectonics, plus and a sense of the origin and history of continents and ocean basins.

Course text: Keary & Vine (1996): *Global Tectonics*, 2nd ed. Blackwell

ISBN: 978-0-86542-924-6 (Paper back)

Attendance: Attendance is required. There are NO excused absences. No visitors
Each absence in excess of 6 absences costs 5 points off the final grade.
Three tardies count as one absence. If you miss a lecture, it is your responsibility to obtain the material presented in the lecture from a fellow student.

Make-up Exams: If you miss any of the first three exams there will be a comprehensive make-up exam given at 2 pm on December 6, 2007, in LDB 300.

Academic Conduct

University statement: *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 the abuse of resource materials.*

I assume that a basic honor system applies to this course and that you must take care to respect your fellow students. Cheaters will automatically fail. Please keep your eyes on your own exam. You get one warning, then you get a zero on the exam. See *Student Guidelines*

Classroom Rules and Conduct

University statement: *Students are expected assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the university. Cellular telephones and pagers must be turned off before class begins. Students are prohibited from eating or drinking in class, using tobacco products, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers, sleeping, talking at inappropriate times, wearing inappropriate clothing, or engaging in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in a directive to leave class. Students who are especially disruptive also may be reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.*

1. Class starts on time. Sleeping/reading in class = an absence.
2. Class ends when I say it ends. Leaving early without permission = a tardy.
3. Keep quiet when I am lecturing.
4. Raise your hand if you have a question or need to leave the room for any
5. 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 an exam.)

VISITORS IN THE CLASSROOM:

University statement: *Unannounced visitors to the classroom must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted in the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom. This policy is not intended to discourage occasional visiting of classes by responsible persons.*

Americans with Disabilities Act:

University statement: *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 any 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 Counseling Center and Services for Students with Disabilities in a timely manner and complete a form that will grant permission to receive special accommodations.*

Religious Holidays:

Students who are absent from class for the observance of a religious holy day are allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within reasonable time after the absence. The period of time during which assignments and exams will be excused includes travel time associated with the observance of the religious holy day. A student who wishes to be excused for a religious holy day must present the instructor of each scheduled class that he/she will be absent from class for religious reasons with a written statement concerning the holy day(s) and the travel involved. The instructor should provide the student with a written description of the deadline for the completion of missed exams or assignments. In such cases, the student will be required to take the test or submit the assignment early—unless there are good reasons for not being able to do so and the instructor has agreed to those reasons.

COURSE OUTLINE

WEEK OF:	TOPICS
Aug. 20	Introduction/Igneous Petrology
Aug. 27	Volcanology/Rock Mechanics
Sept. 3	Labor Day(9/3)/Seismology/Earth's Interior
Sept. 10	Plate Tectonics/FIRST EXAM (9/14)
Sept. 17	Embryonic Ocean Basins
Sept. 24	Young to Mature Ocean Basins
Oct. 1	Passive Plate Boundaries
Oct. 8	Converging Plate Boundaries/SECOND EXAM(10/12)
Oct. 15	Volcanic Mountain Ranges
Oct. 22	Declining Ocean Basins
Oct. 29	Folded Mountain Belts
Nov. 5	Oceanic Intraplate Activity/THIRD EXAM (11/9)
Nov. 12	Continental Intraplate Activity
Nov. 19	Seismic Tomography/Thanksgiving Break
Nov. 26	Perspective
Dec. 3	Perspective
Dec. 12	FINAL: 11 am - 1 pm