

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Earth Science 461-40126 Earth Science for Teachers

6/3/2020 – 7/2/2020

Instructor: Kayla Gibbs

Email: Kayla.Gibbs@tamuc.edu, checked M-F 8-5pm. Expect response within 24hrs, excluding weekends.

Office: No office on campus

Office Hours: By appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is designed for middle school (6-8) teachers with an emphasis placed on the four disciplines of Earth Science: geology, oceanography, meteorology and astronomy. Organization, materials selection appropriate for the age group, including labs and projects.

COURSE OBJECTIVES/OUTCOMES:

The student will learn basic concepts of the four fields of earth science.

The student will learn to prepare and present lab activities appropriate for middle school aged children.

The student will learn to write a basic lab report.

The student will learn to present material in multiple ways to engage many learning styles.

TEXTBOOK:

Tarback, E., Lutgens, F., & Tasa, D. (2009). Earth Science (12th ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice-Hall.

COURSE PLAN:

1. Read the assigned chapters each week.
2. View and study the power points for each chapter.
3. Complete an activity each week that will correspond to one of the chapters.
4. Take a quiz each week over the assigned chapters.
5. Complete any assignments by their due date.

How to succeed in this course:

On the homepage of this course on the left side in the content area the semester is broken into a series of weeks.

You will start with week 1. When you open the week 1 tab you will find a reading assignment, usually 2 chapters per week. There will be powerpoints for those chapters so you know what to study for the quiz. There will be an activity that corresponds with one of the chapters, and a quiz.

Since our class starts on Monday the 3rd. that will be the first day of week 1. The last day of the week will be the following Monday the 10th. Week 2 also begins on Monday the 10th. So week 1 ends and week 2 starts on Monday the 10th. Week 2 ends on Monday the 17th. Week 3 begins on Monday the 17th and ends on Monday the 24th. Week 4 begins on Monday the 24th and ends on Monday 30th. Week 5 starts on Monday 30th and course ends on Wednesday Julyrd.

Everything within a week tab must be completed by the end of that week. I suggest that you do the reading first and then you can focus on the ppts until you are ready to take the quiz. While you are studying for the quiz you can complete any assignments for the week.

Again, everything assigned in a weekly tab must be completed during that week. For example, when you open the week 1 tab the quiz and assignment must be finished by the end of that week 6/10 by 11:59 . At 12am on Tuesday 6/11 the dropbox for the assignments will close and the quiz will no longer open. Make sure you leave enough time to take the quiz, if you are still working at 12 am, the quiz will close and you will not be able to complete it.

If you do not finish in time I will grade what you have done and that will be your grade. If you miss a quiz or assignment you must have a university approved excuse for me to reopen. Since the entire semester is open when you start the class you can work as fast as you want, you can work ahead but you cannot be late in turning anything in.

If anything goes wrong during a quiz there is a protocol that must be followed. Whatever happens, stop what you are doing, **do not get out of the quiz**, contact tech support right then, that way they can see what is going on and will give you a number which you will give me. Then I can decide what needs to be done. If you do not follow this protocol I cannot tell what happened and will have to give you whatever grade you have at that point. Always follow protocol.

Also in the content area you will find a tab called Virtual Office. This is where you will go when you first enter the course page to introduce yourself. This is important because I have to certify the class and if you have not signed in, you may be dropped. This is also where you ask questions about the class. If you don't understand something about an activity this is where you go to ask a question. Virtual Office allows me to give all of you info at the same time rather than answering each of you individually. You only need to email if you are asking a personal question, such as about grades or something in the quiz that you think may be wrong. Most questions should be asked in virtual office. Remember it is for questions not whining. If you must whine, email me directly.

Finally if something does go wrong, a dropbox closes early or a quiz is not open when it should be etc., **do not panic!** Between myself and tech support there is almost nothing that cannot be fixed. If I make a mistake in some way, I will never let that mistake affect your grade.

Now, I want you to think about what this class means to you. Is this your last science before graduation? Do you need to get a certain grade so that you get off probation? If this or some other goal for the class is something you have in mind, you need to make sure that you do whatever is necessary to make that happen. I do not offer individual extra credit. I only offer it on a class wide basis. If the class is a cake walk (easy) for you and you make a C or if you work really hard and make a C, it is still a C. I cannot grade you on effort, you are graded by how you do on the quizzes and assignments. If you are failing there will not be enough extra credit to get you up to the grade you need. Extra credit is just supposed to be an incentive, if your lucky it might bump you up to the next grade level. I want all of you to succeed but you have to make it happen.

COURSE ASSESSMENTS

"This course is made up of a series of assignments and assessments to assist you in achieving the course learning objectives/outcomes. Each week you will work on various combinations of assignments, activities, readings, etc. All activities have due dates, please pay attention to them. Quizzes are open each Monday from 12am until 11:59pm on the following Monday. Make sure the quiz is open (they should all be open) If you try to open a quiz early, the program will think you have already taken it and not allow you back in on the appropriate day. Do not open quizzes early. You will not be able to see

anything and will only cause yourself problems. Go to virtual office and let me know if a quiz is not open.

Quizzes = 40%

Activities = 40%

Bell Ringers, articles, etc. = 20%

100%

Course Objective/Learning Outcome #1:

Student will learn to prepare and present lab activities for the appropriate grade level. Students will learn to write a lab report for all activities.

Assessment Method: Activities will be graded on how well the activity is performed (I will know this from the lab report) the accuracy of the answers provided and the quality of the lab report

Activities: 100 points each – 40% of the overall grade

Course Objective/Learning Outcomes #2:

Quizzes will cover the required textbook reading and the content of the online power points. Complete the quizzes online by accessing the exam tool. The quizzes will be timed and grades made available to students following the submission of the quiz. If you lose Internet connectivity during the quiz or experience any issues while taking the quiz, you must contact the eCollege Helpdesk immediately so that your issue is documented with a helpdesk ticket number. Considerations regarding quiz issues will be made by the instructor on an individual basis based on the documentation.

Assessment Method: Quizzes are multiple choice.

Quizzes: 100 points each and 40% of the overall grade.

Course Objectives/Learning Outcome #3: During the course of the semester you may be asked to provide bell ringers, review articles, review labs or other short assignments.

Assessment Method: Grades will be determined by the quality of review or ringers, accuracy of the information, creativity, and how well your assignments stay within the 6th-8th grade range.

Miscellaneous assignments: 20% of the overall grade.

GRADING

Grades	
Activities	40%
Quizzes	40%
Misc. Assignments	20%

Grading Scale	
90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D
Below 60	F

STUDENT CONTACT

All email correspondence for this course will be sent to student myLeo email accounts. Please make it a habit to check email often and log in to the course daily to stay connected with the class.

SCHOLARLY EXPECTATIONS

All works submitted for credit must be original works created by the scholar uniquely for the class. It is considered inappropriate and unethical to make duplicate submissions of a single work for credit in multiple classes, unless specifically requested by the instructor. Work submitted is expected to demonstrate higher-order thinking skills and a dedicated study regime.

ADA STATEMENT:

Students with Disabilities:

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a

learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

CODE of CONDUCT

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See <http://www.tamuc.edu/studentlife/guidebook%201.pdf>).

Texas A&M University-Commerce does not tolerate **plagiarism** and other forms of academic **dishonesty**. Conduct that violates generally accepted standards of academic honesty is defined as academic dishonesty. "Academic dishonesty" includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism (the appropriation or stealing of the ideas or words of another and passing them off as one's own), cheating on exams or other course assignments, collusion (the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing course assignments), and abuse (destruction, defacing, or removal) of resource material. <http://www.plagiarism.org/> or <http://www.unc.edu/depts/wcweb/handouts/plagiarism.html> or <http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml>

Sometimes because we cannot see each other people will forget who they are talking to. I will always treat you with respect, please do the same for me and all your classmates. Follow the guidelines for success and you should have few problems.

Week	Lecture Topic	Lab/Assignment	Quiz
(1) 6/3-6/10	Minerals/Rocks Plate Tectonics		Yes
(2) 6/10-6/17	EQs and Volcanoes Ocean Water and Life		Yes
(3) 6/17-6/24	Atmosphere Clouds/Storms		Yes
(4) 6/24-6/30	Historical Astronomy Solar System		Yes
(5) 6/30-7/3 *course ends Wednesday 7/3.	Beyond the Solar System		Yes