



**History of the Earth**  
**Earth science 1304 01W, CRN 21467**  
**Spring 2026**

## **INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

**Instructor:** Kayla Gibbs

**Office Location:** None on campus

**University Email Address:** Kayla.Gibbs@TAMUC.edu

**Preferred Form of Communication:** E-mail

**Communication Response Time:** Please understand I lecture throughout the day/evening it may take 48 hrs to reply to your email. Please email me if you would like to talk by phone or via Zoom and we can schedule a time.

## **COURSE INFORMATION**

### **Materials**

***Textbook(s) Required*** Earth's Evolving Systems, by Martin.  
ISBN - 13: 9781284108293

### ***Course Description***

ESCI 1304 US - History of the Earth. Three semester hours. Summary of the physical and biological history of the earth, with emphasis on North America. Review of the sequence of physical geological events and evolutionary changes in life. Includes the reconstruction of geologic history of various regions through interpretation of geologic maps, structure sections and simple pale ontological techniques. Note This is a University Studies course. When Offered (Spring)

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

### ***Student Learning Outcomes*** (Should be measurable; observable)

1. Students will be able to analyze, evaluate, or solve problems when given a set of circumstances or data
2. Given data sets of half-lives and proportions students will be able to determine the time periods that certain organisms existed.
3. In written, oral, and/or visual communication, A&M-Commerce students will communicate in a manner appropriate to audience and occasion, with an evident message and organizational structure:
4. Students may be given an assignment to write about three early scientists, what their hypothesis for the age of the Earth is, and the science behind how they came to those conclusions.
5. Students will be able to interpret, test and demonstrate principles revealed in empirical data:

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### ***Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course***

Be sure to check into the class often. All assignments for each week must be turned in or finished by the end of that week. Be sure to read the chapters early and then focus on the ppt. for study before taking a quiz. As with any science class you will need to spend time studying the material to do well in the class.

## **GRADING**

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

F = 59% or Below

Quizzes = 50% of the overall grade

Exams =40% of the overall grade

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

Activities/Assignments =10% of the overall grade

## TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

- To fully participate in online courses you will need to use a current Flash enabled internet browser. For PC and Mac users the suggested browser is Mozilla Firefox.
- You will need regular access to a computer with a broadband Internet connection. The minimum computer requirements are:
  - 512 MB of RAM, 1 GB or more preferred
  - Broadband connection required courses are heavily video intensive
  - Video display capable of high-color 16-bit display 1024 x 768 or higher resolution
- You must have a:
  - Sound card, which is usually integrated into your desktop or laptop computer
  - Speakers or headphones.
  - \*For courses utilizing video-conferencing tools and/or an online proctoring solution, a webcam and microphone are required.
- Both versions of Java (32 bit and 64 bit) must be installed and up to date on your machine. At a minimum Java 7, update 51, is required to support the learning management system. The most current version of Java can be downloaded at: [JAVA web site http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp](http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp)
- Current anti-virus software must be installed and kept up to date.
- Run a browser check through the Pearson LearningStudio Technical Requirements website. [Browser Check http://help.ecollege.com/LS\\_Tech\\_Reg\\_WebHelp/en-us/#LS\\_Technical\\_Requirements.htm#Browse](http://help.ecollege.com/LS_Tech_Reg_WebHelp/en-us/#LS_Technical_Requirements.htm#Browse)

Running the browser check will ensure your internet browser is supported.

Pop-ups are allowed.

JavaScript is enabled.

Cookies are enabled.

- You will need some additional free software (plug-ins) for enhanced web browsing. Ensure that you download the free versions of the following software:
  - [Adobe Reader https://get.adobe.com/reader/](https://get.adobe.com/reader/)
  - [Adobe Flash Player \(version 17 or later\) https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/](https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/)
  - [Adobe Shockwave Player https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/](https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/)
  - [Apple Quick Time http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/](http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/)

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

- At a minimum, you must have Microsoft Office 2013, 2010, 2007 or Open Office. Microsoft Office is the standard office productivity software utilized by faculty, students, and staff. Microsoft Word is the standard word processing software, Microsoft Excel is the standard spreadsheet software, and Microsoft PowerPoint is the standard presentation software. Copying and pasting, along with attaching/uploading documents for assignment submission, will also be required. If you do not have Microsoft Office, you can check with the bookstore to see if they have any student copies.
- For additional information about system requirements, please see: [System Requirements for LearningStudio](https://secure.ecollege.com/tamuc/index.learn?action=technical)  
<https://secure.ecollege.com/tamuc/index.learn?action=technical>

The Courses app is free of charge. The mobile Courses Apps are designed and adapted for different devices.

## COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

### *Interaction with Instructor*

I will answer your questions as soon as possible. It may not be as fast as you think it should be but remember, between me and tech support almost anything can be fixed. If you miss turning in something because I have not responded within 24 hours, I can fix that. If you miss turning something in because you asked me a question at 9pm on the night it is due, I cannot fix that. You have to give me a reasonable time to answer. Make sure that you give yourself time to get everything done with time to spare. Don't wait until the last minute. If you have problems with your computer, I cannot fix that. If there is a problem with the class program, that is not your fault and I can fix it.

## COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

### *Course Specific Procedures/Policies*

Geology is a science course, and like any other it has a vocabulary of its own. You must read the text to understand the material. Make sure that you keep up with the reading. You must spend time studying in this class to do well. Schedule time to study the ppts. This is a 4 hour course, with every major topic there will be a lab.

### **Syllabus Change Policy**

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced.

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

## ***Obligatory Statements***

### ***Student Conduct***

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/documents/studentGuidebook.pdf>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: [Netiquette](#)

<http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>

### ***TAMUC Attendance***

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

### ***Academic Integrity***

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

### ***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

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

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- Room 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: [Rebecca.Tuerk@tamuc.edu](mailto:Rebecca.Tuerk@tamuc.edu)

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

## ***Nondiscrimination Notice***

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

## ***Campus Concealed Carry Statement***

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

## **COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR**

Week 1 Historical Astronomy

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

Week 2 Rocks and Minerals

Week 3 Plate Tectonics

Week 4 Exam

Week 5 Measuring geologic time

Week 6 Evolution

Week 7 Evolution and genetics

Week 8 Exam

Week 9 Spring Break

Week 10 Precambrian era

Week 11 North America – how it formed and first life

Week 12 Paleozoic Earth history, sequences in North America

Week 13 Exam

Week 14 Mesozoic history and life

Week 15 Cenozoic era – how did we get here

Week 16 Final exam.

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*