Midland College
Syllabus
2008-09
GEOL 1401
Earth Science
4 Semester Credit Hours
(3 Lecture/3 Lab)

Course Description: This course is designed to enable students to become familiar with the physical features, products and processes of the Earth system, as well as the impact of these processes on earth’s inhabitants and the environment.

Text, References, and Supplies:


Course Goals/Objectives:
Four (4) broad goals are identified for the students of this course. These are:
1. Understanding the fundamental concepts of how Earth works.
   Important learning topics include: Earth system interactions, earth materials, plate tectonics, and geologic time.
2. Acquiring knowledge of science and its effects on human activities.
   Major topics include: the work of water, rivers, wind, and ice.
3. Evaluating scientific information in the mass media.

Student Contributions, and Class Policies:
Students are expected to:
1. Students will be expected to turn off electronic devices such as: cell phones and MP3 players. Students may use laptops for note taking.
2. Spend at least 1 hour per week for each classroom hour in preparation for class.
3. Make-up work is considered the ultimate responsibility of the student. Attendance is critical in this class and MC policies may be invoked at the discretion of the instructor: that is, three consecutive classroom hours of unexcused absences or a total of six unexcused classroom hours reported to the registrar may result in an automatic grade of “W.”
4. Provide their own Scan-Tron Form 882 for lecture exams.
5. Make-up exams will only be given to those students who have valid excuses and only within one-week’s time of the originally scheduled exam. It is the responsibility of the student to contact the instructor and arrange to make-up the exam. No grades will be dropped.
6. Midland College does not tolerate scholastic dishonesty or academic misconduct in any form. Please read the MC Student Handbook on this subject.
Evaluation of Students:

LATE HOMEWORK:
The final grade will be determined on the basis of: 75% from the lecture portion of the course and 25% from the laboratory portion. A proposed distribution of the course grade system is shown below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homework Assignments</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lecture Exam</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comprehensive Final</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lab Grade</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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</tbody>
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A student with a 90(+) grade average for the lecture portion of the course (excluding the lab portion) may be excused from taking the final exam if agreed upon with the instructor prior to the final exam date. Grades will be determined using the traditional grading ranges as follows: A=90-100, B=80-89, C=70-79, D=60-69, F=below 60.

10 points extra credit (added to an exam) may be earned by 100% Attendance.

Homeworks are due at the BEGINNING of the designated class day. A deduction of 25 points per school day late will be assessed to late homework.

Course Schedule: See Attached Schedule.

Intellectual Competencies:

1. Reading - Understanding the material incorporated in the text used in this course will require the student to analyze and interpret various geological concepts.

2. Listening - The primary teaching methods used in this course are discussion and lecture. Understanding the oral presentation of material will require the student to analyze and interpret various geological concepts.

3. Critical Thinking - Critical thinking, as exemplified by problem solving, is inherent in the study of any geological discipline. Geological problems will be considered, discussed, and analyzed in this course.

ADA Statement:

Any student who, because of a disabling condition, may require some special arrangements in order to meet course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible. These conditions may include documented physical or educational disabilities. Please be aware that services or accommodations are not automatic. Each student must request them and secure the proper authorizations.

Exemplary Objectives for Natural Sciences:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Competency</th>
<th>Course Number</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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Competencies:

1. To understand and apply method and appropriate technology to the study of the natural sciences
2. To recognize scientific and quantitative methods and the differences between these approaches and the other methods of inquiry and to communicate findings, analyses, and interpretation both orally and in writing.
3. To identify and recognize the differences among competing scientific theories.

Instructor Information:

Instructor: Dr. Karen Waggoner

Office: AHSF 117

Phone: 432-685-5580

E-mail: kwaggoner@midland.edu

Office Hours: M 9:00-11:00 am & 4:30-5:30 pm, W 9:00-11:00 am, TR 2:30-3:30 pm, F 7:00-8:00 am or by appointment

Division Dean: Dr. Margaret Wade, 125 SF, 685-4615

Division Secretary: Ms. Norma Duran, 124 SF, 685-4612
    Ms. Brenda Smith, 124 SF, 685-6413