Midland College  
Syllabus  
2008-09  
GEOL 1404  
Historical Geology  
4 Semester Credit Hours  
(3 Lecture/3 Lab)

Course Description: This course involves the study of the geologic history of the Earth. A field trip will be offered on a voluntary basis to students who wish to attend.


Course Goals/Objectives: Historical Geologists seek to determine what events occurred during the past, place those events into an orderly sequence, and provide conceptual frameworks for explaining such events. A primary goal of this course is to provide students with an understanding of the principles of historical geology and how these principles can be applied to the task of unraveling earth history. To accomplish this goal students will review/learn basic rock types; grapple with the concept of geologic time; understand basic evolutionary concepts as represented by various fossil groups; and accept the unifying concepts of plate tectonic theory as evidenced through geologic time.

Student Contributions, and Class Policies: Students are expected to:

1. Spend at least 1 hour per week for each classroom hour in preparation for class.
2. 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 during the semester may be reported to the registrar and may result in an automatic grade of “W.” Students would then have to re-petition back into class.
3. **Provide their own Scan-Tron Form 882** for lecture exams.
4. Make-up exams will only be given to those students who have valid excuses and then only within one-week’s time of the originally scheduled exam. Make-up exams will be given during the regular class meeting times (eg. MWF 11:00am). Make-up exams if permitted beyond the one-week grace period will lose one full letter grade as a late penalty. **No grades will be dropped.**
5. Midland College does not tolerate scholastic dishonesty or academic misconduct in any form. Please read the MC Student Handbook on this subject.
6. A relatively new MC Policy: No i-Pod or other ear-phone audio device will be used by students in the classroom during lectures or labs. Instructors have been instructed to collect such devices.
Evaluation of Students:

Lecture Chapter Tests 500
Comprehensive Final 250
Lab Grade 250
TOTAL 1000

A student with a 90(+) grade average may be excused from taking the final exam if agreed upon with the instructor prior to the final exam date. Grades will be determined with no exceptions using the traditional grading ranges as follows: A=90-100, B=80-89, C=70-79, D=60-69, F=below 60.

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 scientific 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:

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<tr>
<th>Competency</th>
<th>Course Number</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>3</td>
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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: Fred Wetendorf
Office: Science Faculty 127
Phone: 685-4620
E-mail: Fwetendorf@Midland.edu

Office Hours: TR..................7:00 - 8:00 am
TR..................11:00 am - 12:00 pm
MWF............8:00 am - 9:00 am
MWF............12:00 noon - 1:00 pm

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

Have A Good Semester