

## **Midland College Syllabus**

2021 - 2022

GEOL 1403 WB 1

Physical Geology Lecture and Lab

4 Semester Credit Hours

(3 Lecture/3 Lab)

*Core Curriculum Course*

### **Instructor Information:**

**Instructor:** [Click here to enter text.](#)

**Phone:** [Click here to enter text.](#)

**Office Hours:** [Click here to enter text.](#)

**Office:** [Click here to enter text.](#)

**Email:** [Click here to enter text.](#)

**Notice:** Students MUST actively participate by completing an academic assignment required by the instructor by the official census date. Students who do not actively participate in an academically-related activity may be reported as never attended and dropped from the course.

### **Course Description:**

**Lecture -** This course is designed to enable students to become familiar with the dynamic nature of the Earth, its geologic features, products and processes, and the record of the Earth's evolution captured within the rocks. Prerequisite: TSI complete in Reading and Math.

**Lab -** Physical Geology lab is designed to complement and expand on the concepts which have been or will be propounded in the lecture portion of the course. Whenever possible the lab activities will implement a "hands on" approach to Earth's products and processes. Prerequisite: TSI complete in Reading and Math.

### **Core Objectives:**

This course fulfills four hours of the Life and Physical Science requirement in the Midland College **Core Curriculum**. The Core Curriculum is a set of courses that provide students with a foundation of knowledge, skills and educational experiences that are essential for all learning. The Core Curriculum is available in the [Midland College Catalog](#). As part of the core, this course addresses the following four objectives:

**Critical Thinking Skills** –Students will demonstrate critical thinking skills by exploring the how and why of the physical processes and interactions of the earth systems by course assignments, class projects and instructor created regular and final exams.

**Communication Skills** – Students will demonstrate communication skills by instructor mediated discussions and student presentations.

Empirical and Quantitative Skills - Students will demonstrate empirical and quantitative skills as they acquire knowledge in recognizing and describing physical properties of minerals and rocks and by learning the process of interpreting maps.

Teamwork - Students will demonstrate teamwork by group assignments in lecture and gathering and analyzing data in laboratory assignments.

**Text, References and Supplies:**

Textbooks are not needed. Students must have access to a computer and the Internet.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

Lecture:

1. Classify rocks and minerals based on chemical composition, physical properties, and origin.
2. Apply knowledge of topographic maps to quantify geometrical aspects of topography.
3. Identify landforms on maps, diagrams, and/or photographs and explain the processes that created them.
4. Differentiate the types of plate boundaries and their associated features on maps and profiles and explain the processes that occur at each type of boundary.
5. Identify basic structural features on maps, block diagrams and cross sections and infer how they were created.
6. Demonstrate the collection, analysis, and reporting of data.

Lab:

1. Describe how the scientific method has led to our current understanding of Earth's structure and processes.
2. Interpret the origin and distribution of minerals, rocks and geologic resources.
3. Describe the theory of plate tectonics and its relationship to the formation and distribution of Earth's crustal features.
4. Quantify the rates of physical and chemical processes acting on Earth and how these processes fit into the context of geologic time.
5. Communicate how surface processes are driven by interactions among Earth's systems (e.g., the geosphere, hydrosphere, biosphere, and atmosphere).
6. Identify and describe the internal structure and dynamics of Earth. Describe the interaction of humans with Earth (e.g., resource development or hazard assessment).

### **Student Contributions, Responsibilities and Class Policies:**

Students will be expected to comply with the policies outlined in the Midland College student handbook. Instructor policies concerning attendance and academic behavior are consistent with the policies in the student handbook (See Instructor Handout). Regular attendance is required to do well in this class.

### **Attendance Policy:**

It is the responsibility of the students to know the policies and procedures associated with absences. These policies are set by instructors. Excused absences may include, but are not limited to, illness, severe weather, and death in the family. Instructors will determine whether or not an absence is excused. [Midland College Catalog](#)

### **Withdrawal Policy:**

Students who have enrolled in a Texas public institution of higher education as a first-time freshman in fall 2007 or later are permitted to drop no more than six courses during the entire undergraduate career. This limit includes all transfer work taken at a Texas institution of higher education and to second baccalaureate degrees. This statute was enacted by the State of Texas in spring 2007 (Texas Education Code 51.907). Any course that a student drops after Census Day is counted toward the six-course limit if "(1) the student was able to drop the course without receiving a grade or incurring an academic penalty; (2) the student's transcript indicates or will indicate that the student was enrolled in the course; and (3) the student is not dropping the course in order to withdraw from the institution." Please visit the [Midland College Catalog](#)

### **Scholastic Dishonesty:**

Midland College does not tolerate scholastic dishonesty or academic misconduct in any form. Please read the MC Student Handbook on this subject. Please visit the [Midland College Catalog](#)

### **Evaluation of Students:**

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

- |                                     |          |
|-------------------------------------|----------|
| • Homework, Quizzes & Participation | 0%-20%   |
| • Lecture Exams                     | 80%-100% |

Students will be evaluated based on the results of all coursework given throughout the semester. Your lecture instructor will inform you on the first day of class as to the tentative dates and content of the course. Students are expected to complete all assignments and exams.

There will be no make-up exams. In case of student participation in a scholastic event or other foreseen excusable absence, the instructor may grant permission to take an exam early.

Grades will be determined using the grading ranges as follows: A=90-100, B=80-89, C=70-79, D=60-69, and F=below 60. Class participation and attendance will also be considered.

**Course Schedule:**

This class meets for 3 lecture hours per week and 3 lab hours per week. All sections have a common assessment. The common assessment for this class is shown in the schedule and is noted as such. For a tentative schedule of the class meetings and material to be covered during those meetings, please refer to the schedule distributed to each student on the first class meeting (See Instructor Handout).

**Non-Discrimination Statement**

Midland College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs and activities. The following individual has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

**Tana Baker**

Title IX Coordinator/Compliance Officer  
3600 N. Garfield, SSC 131  
Midland, Texas 79705  
(432) 685-4781  
[tbaker@midland.edu](mailto:tbaker@midland.edu)

For further information on notice of non-discrimination, visit the ED.gov Office of Civil Rights website, or call 1 (800) 421-3481.

**Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Statement:**

Midland College provides services for students with disabilities through Student Services. In order to receive accommodations, students must visit [www.midland.edu/accommodation](http://www.midland.edu/accommodation) and complete the Application for Accommodation Services located under the Apply for Accommodations tab. Services or accommodations are not automatic, each student must apply and be approved to receive them. All documentation submitted will be reviewed and a "Notice of Accommodations" letter will be sent to instructors outlining any reasonable accommodations.

**Math & Science Division Information:**

Division Office: AHSF 124 (432) 685-4561  
Division E-Mail: [mns@midland.edu](mailto:mns@midland.edu)

Department Chair: Mr. Antony Giles (432) 685-4525  
Dean: Dr. Miranda Poage  
Secretary: Sarah Anderson  
Clerk: Liliana Orcutt

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