El Paso Community College
Syllabus
Part II
Official Course Description

SUBJECT AREA	**Geology**
COURSE RUBRIC AND NUMBER	**GEOL 1303**
COURSE TITLE	**Physical Geology**
COURSE CREDIT HOURS	**3 3 0** **Credits Lec Lab**

I. Catalog Description

Studies the principles and processes of physical geology with emphasis on earth materials, structures, land forms, and mineral resources. Recommended for all students majoring in science or engineering. Requires a one-day field trip. **Prerequisite: INRW 0311 or ESOL 0340 (can be taken concurrently) or by placement exam or ENGL 1301 with a "C" or better or ENGL 1302 with a "C" or better. Corequisite: GEOL 1103. (3:0).**

II. Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

A. Describe how the scientific method has led to our current understanding of Earth's structure and processes.
B. Interpret the origin and distribution of minerals, rocks and geologic resources.
C. Describe the theory of plate tectonics and its relationship to the formation and distribution of Earth's crustal features.
D. Quantify the rates of physical and chemical processes acting on Earth and how these processes fit into the context of geologic time.
E. Communicate how surface processes are driven by interactions among Earth's systems (e.g., the geosphere, hydrosphere, biosphere, and atmosphere).
F. Identify and describe the internal structure and dynamics of Earth. .
G. Describe the interactions of humans with Earth (e.g., resource development or hazard assessment).
H. Students will produce a research project presentation in which they will analyze. Evaluate, and synthesize a topic given by the instructor. The topic will allow the students to demonstrate creativity, innovation and inquiry as well as analysis, interpretation and synthesis of intimation. Upon successful completion of the project, students will demonstrate the following skills:

1. **Critical thinking skills**: Students will engage in creative thinking, innovation, and inquiry, and demonstrate analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information.

2. **Communication skills:** Students will demonstrate effective written, oral, and visual communication.

3. **Teamwork skills**: Students will demonstrate that they are able to work effectively with others, to consider different point of view, to support a common purpose or goal, and to reach a conclusion.

4. **Empirical and Quantitative skills**: Students will demonstrate successful manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts, resulting in informed conclusions.

III. THECB Learning Outcomes (ACGM)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

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.
7. Describe the interaction of humans with Earth (e.g., resource development or hazard assessment).

IV. Evaluation

The procedure for determining the final grade will be decided by the instructor and presented to the student in the syllabus.

LECTURE

A. Exams and Quizzes. The number, frequency and type of quizzes and exams are left to the discretion of the instructor.

B. Grading:

Above 90	=**A**
80-89.9	=**B**
70-79.9	=**C**
60-69.9	=**D**
Below 60	=**F**

V. Disability Statement (Americans with/Disabilities Act [ADA])

EPCC offers a variety of services to persons with documented sensory, mental, physical, or temporary disabling conditions to promote success in classes. If you have a disability and believe you may need services, you are encouraged to contact the Center for Students with Disabilities to discuss your needs with a counselor. All discussions and documentation are kept confidential. Offices located: VV Room C-112 (831-2426); TM Room 1400 (831-5808); RG Room B-201 (831-4198); NWC Room M-54 (831-8815); and MDP Room A-125 (831-7024)

VI. 6 Drop Rule

Students who began attending Texas public institutions of higher education for the first time during the fall 2007 semester or later are subject to a 6-Drop limit for all undergraduate classes. Developmental, ESL, Dual Credit and Early College High School classes are exempt from this rule. All students should consult with their instructor before dropping a class. Academic assistance is available. Students are encouraged to see Counseling Services if dropping because exemptions may apply. Refer to the EPCC catalog and website for additional information.