



**Geology 1403.103CL**  
**Physical Geology**  
**Spring 2023**  
**Monday & Wednesday 8:00 AM – 10:50 AM**

**Instructor Information:** Georgiana Kramer, Ph.D., gkramer@com.edu, 409-933-3651

**Student hours and location:**

Tuesdays:	2:00 pm – 5:00 pm	STEAM, Bldg. #22, Rm. 325-26
Wednesdays:	2:30 pm – 4:30 pm	Virtual
Thursdays:	2:00 pm – 4:30 pm	STEAM, Bldg. #22, Rm. 325-26

**Required Textbook/Materials:** You will need a printed or ebook version of the textbook:

Title: Essentials of Geology, 13th edition

Author: Frederick K Lutgens & Edward J. Tarbuck

ISBN-13: 9780134700380

Publisher: Pearson 2017

Textbooks and/or courseware will be available through VitalSource digitally. Cost of the course materials: \$81.75. The course materials will be available on the first day of class and you will be given the opportunity to opt-out of the e-book prior to the census day of the class. If you choose not to use the course materials, you will be reimbursed after census day of the class. The materials are not refundable after the census day. You will receive an email with more information about the use of the course materials closer to the start of the semester.

**Course Description:** Introduction to the study of the materials and processes that have modified and shaped the surface and interior of Earth over time. These processes are described by theories based on experimental data and geologic data gathered from field observations. *Prerequisite:* TSIA2 945-990 ELAR/CRC test AND 5 or higher on Essay OR 910-944 on CRC with 5-6 on Diagnostic Test + 5 or higher on Essay, or IRW 0320 with a grade of "C" or better.

**Course requirements:** The course consists of a textbook, homework, lab assignments, a paper and presentation. Your assessment of the material will be through lab and lecture exams, class attendance and behavior, and assignments.

**Determination of Course Grade/Detailed Grading Formula:**

<b>Possible points earned for assignments &amp; tests‡</b>		<b>Total points</b>	<b>% of final grade</b>
Lecture Exams	100 points each (3 exams)	300	26%
Lab Exams	100 points each (4 (-1)* exams)	300	26%
Special Lab Assignment	100 points	100	8.5%
Critical Writing & Presentation	100 points	100	8.5%
Participation & Professionalism	150 points	150	13%
Comprehensive Lecture Final Exam	200 points	200	18%
		<b>1150</b>	<b>100%</b>

‡ Possible points can exceed these values from extra credit questions on exams and extra credit assignments.

\* Your lowest lab exam will be dropped, so not calculated in the final grade.

Grades will be calculated on a Total Points Earned / Total Points Possible system. Therefore, your grade will be based upon the total number of points that you earn on all assignments in the course divided by the total points that can be earned on all assignments in the course. Your grade can be calculated at any point in the semester by the following formula:

Your Grade = (Total Points Earned / Total Points Possible) x 100

#### **Grade Range:**

**A** 90-100

**B** 80-89

**C** 70-79

**D** 60-69

**F** >60

**FN** F earned by excessive absences

**Late Work, Make-Up, and Extra-Credit Policy:** The class calendar has all the due dates for all homework, lab assignments, and exams. Late work is not accepted. Assignments that are submitted past their deadline will receive a zero. Make-up exams are allowed only under extenuating circumstances and at the instructor's discretion. Additional assignments and/or extra credit may be given during the semester, per the instructor's discretion.

#### **Classroom Etiquette:**

Sleeping in Class: You are gaining nothing by coming to class and sleeping. It's rude, and you are making a bad impression. It is understandable that lecture can sometimes have an effect, but excessive sleeping in class will negatively affect your Participation and Professionalism score.

Cell Phones: Remember that cell phones should be put away for lecture AND lab. Like sleeping, using your cell phone throughout class is rude and inconsiderate to the professor and classmates. Cell phones should be placed on silent and put away while in lecture AND lab.

Personal Conversations: There should be no personal conversations while in lecture. However, conversations that are part of a classroom discussion on current lecture material are encouraged. When in lab, conversations are encouraged when completing the assigned tasks. However, if I am speaking to the class at-large, the conversations should cease. Otherwise, someone that wants or needs to hear what I am saying is not going to be able to hear me. Even though you may already know what I am discussing, the person near you may not.

Civility: All class members deserve to be treated with dignity and respect. Please ensure that your lecture/lab discussions with your classmates are not prejudicial. In terms of communication with the instructor, remember this is a formal classroom setting. College protocol as established in the Student Handbook will be observed. Should you need to address the course instructor, you should utilize my title (i.e. Professor Kramer or Dr. Kramer). Moreover, email correspondence should be respectful and follow standard rules of English grammar.

**Attendance Policy:** Attendance will be taken every day and submitted to college administrators.

**Communicating with your instructor:** ALL electronic communication with the instructor must be through your COM email. Due to FERPA restrictions, faculty cannot share any information about performance in the class through other electronic means. (Faculty may add additional statement requiring monitoring and communication expectations via D2L or other LMS)

Student Learner Outcome	Maps to Core Objective	Assessed via this Assignment
1. Describe how the scientific method has led to our current understanding of Earth’s structure and processes.	Communication	Lecture Exam
2. Interpret the origin and distribution of minerals, rocks and geologic resources.	Critical Thinking	Lab Practical
3. Describe the theory of plate tectonics and its relationship to the formation and distribution of Earth’s crustal features.	Communication	Lecture Exam
4. Quantify the rates of physical and chemical processes acting on Earth and how these processes fit into the context of geologic time.	Critical Thinking	Lecture Exam

5. Communicate how surface processes are driven by interactions among Earth's systems (e.g., the geosphere, hydrosphere, biosphere, and atmosphere).	Communication	Lecture Exam
6. Identify and describe the internal structure and dynamics of Earth.	Communication	Lecture Exam
7. Describe the interaction of humans with Earth (e.g., resource development or hazard assessment).	Communication	Lab Practical
8. Classify rocks and minerals based on chemical composition, physical properties, and origin.	Empirical and Quantitative	Lab Practical
9. Apply knowledge of topographic maps to quantify geometrical aspects of topography.	Critical Thinking	Lab Practical
10. Identify landforms on maps, diagrams, and/or photographs and explain the processes that created them.	Critical Thinking	Lab Practical
11. 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.	Critical Thinking	Lecture Exam
12. Identify basic structural features on maps, block diagrams and cross sections and infer how they were created.	Critical Thinking	Lecture Exam
13. Demonstrate the collection, analysis, and reporting of data.	Teamwork	Lab Assignment
14. Write a research-based paper.	Critical Thinking	Paper
15. Create a professional, scientific presentation and deliver oral presentation to peers.	Communication	Presentation

**Academic Dishonesty:** Any incident of academic dishonesty will be dealt with in accordance with college policy and the Student Handbook. Academic dishonesty - such as cheating on exams - is an extremely serious offense and will result in a grade of zero on that exam and the student will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for the appropriate disciplinary action.

Plagiarism is using someone else's words or ideas and claiming them as your own. Plagiarism is a very serious offense. Plagiarism includes paraphrasing someone else's words without giving a proper citation, copying directly from a website and pasting it into your paper, using someone else's words without quotation marks. Any assignment containing any plagiarized material will receive a grade of zero and the student will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for the appropriate disciplinary action.

Examples of plagiarism include:

1. Submitting someone else's work with or without their knowledge.
2. Paraphrasing or copying from a source (such as the internet, or books, or journals/magazines) without proper citation.
3. Turning in a paper that was prepared through a website service.
4. PDF documents, inserted Latin characters or filled in spaces with white colored characters are considered an attempt to bypass the plagiarism checker and will be a zero!
5. Copying materials straight from source text (even if it is from the internet), providing the appropriate citation (e.g. Works Cited or Bibliography) but leaving out quotation marks or in-text citation.

Resource about ways to avoid, or check for, plagiarism: <https://www.duplichecker.com/>

**Student Concerns:** If you have any questions or concerns about any aspect of this course, please contact me using the contact information previously provided. If, after discussing your concern with me, you continue to have questions, please contact [insert name and title of direct supervisor] at [phone number/email address].

**Course outline:** (include calendar with lecture topics, due dates)

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## Institutional Policies and Guidelines

**Grade Appeal Process:** Concerns about the accuracy of grades should first be discussed with the instructor. A request for a change of grade is a formal request and must be made within six months of the grade assignment. Directions for filing an appeal can be found in the student handbook [Student Handbook 2022-2023 v4.pdf \(com.edu\)](#). *An appeal will not be considered because of general dissatisfaction with a grade, penalty, or outcome of a course. Disagreement with the instructor's professional judgment of the quality of the student's work and performance is also not an admissible basis for a grade appeal.*

**Academic Success & Support Services:** College of the Mainland is committed to providing students the necessary support and tools for success in their college careers. Support is offered through our Tutoring Services, Library, Counseling, and through Student Services. Please discuss any concerns with your faculty or an advisor.

**ADA Statement:** Any student with a documented disability needing academic accommodations is requested to contact Kimberly Lachney at 409-933-8919 or [klachney@com.edu](mailto:klachney@com.edu). The Office of Services for Students with Disabilities is located in the Student Success Center.

**Textbook Purchasing Statement:** A student attending College of the Mainland is not under any obligation to purchase a textbook from the college-affiliated bookstore. The same textbook may also be available from an independent retailer, including an online retailer.

**Withdrawal Policy:** Students may withdraw from this course for any reason prior to the last eligible day for a “W” grade. Before withdrawing students should speak with the instructor and consult an advisor. Students are permitted to withdraw only six times during their college career by state law. The last date to withdraw from the 1<sup>st</sup> 8-week session is March 1. The last date to withdraw from the 16-week session is April 24. The last date to withdraw for the 2<sup>nd</sup> 8-week session is May 3.

**FN Grading:** The FN grade is issued in cases of *failure due to a lack of attendance*, as determined by the instructor. The FN grade may be issued for cases in which the student ceases or fails to attend class, submit assignments, or participate in required capacities, and for which the student has failed to withdraw. The issuing of the FN grade is at the discretion of the instructor. The last date of attendance should be documented for submission of an FN grade.

**Early Alert Program:** The Student Success Center at College of the Mainland has implemented an Early Alert Program because student success and retention are very important to us. I have been asked to refer students to the program throughout the semester if they are having difficulty completing assignments or have poor attendance. If you are referred to the Early Alert Program you will be contacted by someone in the Student Success Center who will schedule a meeting with you to see what assistance they can offer in order for you to meet your academic goals.

**Resources to Help with Stress:**

If you are experiencing stress or anxiety about your daily living needs including food, housing or just feel you could benefit from free resources to help you through a difficult time, please click here <https://www.com.edu/community-resource-center/>. College of the Mainland has partnered with free community resources to help you stay on track with your schoolwork, by addressing life issues that get in the way of doing your best in school. All services are private and confidential. You may also contact the Dean of Students office at [deanofstudents@com.edu](mailto:deanofstudents@com.edu) or [communityresources@com.edu](mailto:communityresources@com.edu).