

**Historical Geology
GEOL 1404 Section N1
Blinn College, Bryan Campus
Course Information Sheet
Summer 2010**

Instructor: Dr. Amanda Julson

Office: G-246

Office Hours: Following lab meeting or by appointment

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Course Description: General principles of historical geology with emphasis on evolution of Earth and life through time. Topics include an overview of the rock cycle and plate tectonic theory, with emphasis on stratigraphic principles, the fossil record, evolutionary theory, and paleogeographic map interpretation. Laboratory work includes basic study of rocks, interpretation of depositional environments and tectonic settings, stratigraphic sequence analysis, and fossil interpretation. Three class hours and three laboratory hours per week. Credit: Four semester hours.

Prerequisites: GEOL 1403 (Physical Geology) or permission of instructor.

Core Curriculum Course: This is a course in the 42-hour Core Curriculum of Blinn College. As such, students will develop proficiency in appropriate intellectual competencies, exemplary educational objectives and general perspectives. The URL of the Blinn College Core Curriculum Web Site is: <http://www.blinn.edu/corecurriculum.htm>.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Relate topics from physical geology to Earth's history (e.g., plate tectonics, rock cycle).
2. Analyze the formation, classification and interpretation of sedimentary rocks.
3. Apply stratigraphic principles to interpret the rock record.
4. Apply relative and absolute dating principles to interpret the geologic history of rock units.
5. Explain evolutionary theory and relate it to changes in the fossil record through time.
6. Identify and classify fossils (including mode of preservation) and apply them to interpret age and environment of strata.
7. Characterize each time period of Earth's history (beginning with its origin) with regard to changes in the paleogeography, environment, and biota.

Required Materials:

Required Textbook: *Historical Geology (6th ed.)*: by Wicander & Monroe, 2009 (Brooks/Cole Cengage Learning)

Required Lab Manual: *Blinn College Historical Geology Lab Manual*: Prentice Hall Custom Publishing.

Additional class and lab materials will be available through ECampus.

Civility Statement:

Members of the Blinn College community, which includes faculty, staff and students, are expected to act honestly and responsibly in all aspects of campus life. Blinn College holds all members accountable for their actions and words. Therefore, all members should commit themselves to behave in a manner that recognizes personal respect and demonstrates concern for the personal dignity, rights, and freedoms of every member of the College community, including respect for College property and the physical and intellectual property of others. Civility applies to attire as well as language, behavior, and cell phone usage. Please dress appropriately for the academic classroom and laboratory.

Civility Notification Statement: If a student is asked to leave the classroom or have access to the online classroom denied because of uncivil behavior, the student may not return to that class until he or she arranges a conference with the instructor. It is the student's responsibility to arrange for this conference.

Course Requirements:

Lab Exercises and Weekly Assignments: Assignments, discussions and lab exercises will be due weekly on Sundays (they are submitted using the ECampus "assessment" tool). Late work will be accepted the following day (Monday) with a 10-point penalty. Correct answers are released for student review on Tuesday.

Campus Visits: Unlike many other internet classes, online Science courses involve visits to campus.

On-Campus Lab Meetings: **Wednesdays 4-5:30 p.m.** in Rm. G-216 (second floor of Bookstore Building, Bryan Campus).

On-Campus Exams

The Lecture Exams and Final Exam are regular paper tests administered at the Learning Center (Blinn Campus) or another college's proctored testing center (if arranged with me well in advance); *check their days and hours of operation, and plan your visit during the availability period for each test.*

Exam Calendar:

Availability Dates	Lecture Exams	Date	Lab Exams
June 25-28	Exam 1	July 7	Lab Midterm
July 16-19	Exam 2	August 4	Lab Final
July 30-August 2	Exam 3		
August 4-5	Final Exam		

Criteria for Grading:

Exams: The Lecture Exams and Final Exam are regular paper tests to be completed at the Blinn College Learning Centers (or another college's proctored testing center, as approved by me). **Please notify me as to which Learning Center you plan on using for your exams.** Please bring a long green Scantron form, a #2 pencil, and your photo ID to these exams. Exams 1-3 may contain a variety of question formats including multiple choice, short answer, fill-in-the-blank, etc.

Laboratory Exams: The two Lab Exams are practical "hands-on" exams. They will be administered at the Blinn College Bryan Campus, Room G-216. If you cannot take the exams at the Bryan Campus contact me so that other arrangements can be made.

The final exam must be completed by the date indicated on the class schedule.

Point Distribution:

Lecture Exams (three 100-pt exams):	30%	(300 out of 1000 points)
Weekly Reading Assignment Questions (average of scores):	10%	(100 out of 1000 points)
Weekly Lab Exercises (average of scores):	10%	(100 out of 1000 points)
Weekly Discussion Postings (average of scores):	10%	(100 out of 1000 points)
Lab Exams (two 100-pt lab exams):	20%	(200 out of 1000 points)
Comprehensive Final Exam:	20%	(200 out of 1000 points)

The grading system of Blinn College recognizes the following grade values:

A = 90 – 100% mastery of course material
B = 80 – 89% “
C = 70 – 79% “
D = 60 – 69% “
F = less than 59% “

Blinn College Policies:

Attendance: The College District believes that class attendance is essential for student success; therefore, students are required to promptly and regularly attend all their classes. Each class meeting builds the foundation for subsequent class meetings. Without full participation and regular class attendance, students shall find themselves at a severe disadvantage for achieving success in college. Class participation shall constitute at least ten percent of the final course grade. It is the responsibility of each faculty member, in consultation with the division chair, to determine how participation is achieved in his or her class. Faculty will require students to regularly attend class and will keep a record of attendance from the first day of class and/or the first day the student's name appears on the roster through final examinations. If a student has one

week's worth of unexcused absences during the semester, he/she will be sent an e-mail by the College, via their **Blinn email account** requiring the student to contact his/her instructor and schedule a conference immediately to discuss her/her attendance issues. Should the student accumulate one week's worth of unexcused absences, he/she will be administratively withdrawn from class.

Note: For internet classes, this means that if a student fails to log into ECampus for ONE WEEK during the 10-week summer semester they will be dropped from the course (unless the situation has been discussed in advance with and approved by me).

There are four forms of excused absence officially designated by Blinn College: (1) Observance of religious holy days: The student should notify his/her instructor(s) not later than the 15th day of the semester concerning the specific date(s) that the student will be absent for any religious holy day(s); and (2) Representing Blinn College at an official institutional function and (3) official involvement in a high school activity for "dual credit" students; and (4) military service. Other excuses will be considered and may be considered excusable at the instructor's discretion, with documentation.

Dropping: If a student chooses to drop the course, it is that student's responsibility to complete a drop order at the Office of Enrollment Services. Failure to do so could result in a grade of F in the course. The last day **to withdraw from a 10-week summer class with a "W" is Friday, July 15, 2010.**

Health Concerns: Eating and drinking are not allowed in classrooms or laboratories.

Dishonesty Statement:

Blinn College does not tolerate cheating, plagiarism or other acts of dishonesty. Definitions of these acts and procedures for dealing with them are described in "Scholastic Dishonesty" in the **Blinn College Student Handbook** which, by reference, is incorporated into this information. The handbook is available online at <http://www.blinn.edu/student%20handbook.pdf>. Please obtain and read.

Problem Resolution: If you have a complaint about your class, you should first request a conference with your instructor to try and resolve the problems or issues. If the problems or issues cannot be resolved at the instructor level, you should request a conference with the Division Chair, Mr. Dwight Bohlmeier, Science 241, dbohlmeier@blinn.edu.

Electronic Device Policy: All the functions of all personal electronic devices designed for communication and/or entertainment (cell phones, pagers, beepers, iPods, and similar devices) must be turned off and kept out of sight in all Blinn College classrooms and associated laboratories. Any noncompliance with this policy will be addressed in accordance with the Blinn College civility policy (Administrative Policy).

ADA Statement: Reasonable accommodations for students with documented learning or physical disabilities will be made upon presentation of a formal request by the student. An official request form is supplied and completed by the Office of Disability Services (ODS) located in the College Park Center Administration Building. The URL to the Office of Disability Services webpage is <http://www.blinn.edu/disability.htm>. Accommodation is not retroactive from the time of concluding agreement for accommodation.