Earth Science II: Texas Issues for Non Science Majors

SECTION SPECIFIC INFORMATION

The syllabus should have the
· course name and abbreviation, section number, and synonym (e.g., Engineering Physics I, PHYS 2425-011-39130)
· campus, room, and time of day

INSTRUCTOR SPECIFIC INFORMATION

The following instructor information should be on the syllabus:

- *instructor's name*
- *phone number(s) (instructor's office phone or Voice Box for adjunct instructors)*
- *office hours and location of office or means of accessing virtual office hours*
- *information on how conferences outside of office hours can be arranged*
- *ACC e-mail address*
- *other avenues for contacting the professor, as appropriate (through BlackBoard, e.g.)*

As a general rule, instructors should avoid interacting with students through social media or providing personal phone numbers.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

- **Credit Hours: *4***
- **Classroom Contact Hours per week: *3***
- **Laboratory Contact Hours per week: *3****

Extension of the study of geology, astronomy, meteorology and oceanography, focusing on natural resources, hazards and climate variability with a focus on the state of Texas. Lab Activities will focus on methods used to collect and analyze data related to natural resources, hazards and climate variability of Texas.

COURSE RATIONALE

This course is an extension of the study of how Earth's systems work with a focus on Texas. This includes the study of geology, astronomy, meteorology and oceanography, focusing on natural resources, hazards and climate variability. This general survey lab course does not count towards a major in the geological sciences.

PREREQUISITES

Prerequisites: 1401 Earth Science I or 1403 Physical Geology

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES & GENERAL EDUCATION COMPETENCIES

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Identify the influence of geologic and hydrologic processes on Earth's surface.
2. Describe the causes and effects of tectonic, meteorological, oceanographic, and astronomical hazards of Texas.
3. Relate climate change to changes in tectonic configurations, astronomical relationships and atmospheric composition.
4. Discuss potential effects of climate variability on Earth systems, including biological systems within Texas.
5. Recognize how scientific models represent an abstraction of complex systems, such as ocean circulation and climate variability.
6. Describe natural resources used by humans and their occurrence and extraction in Texas.
7. Discuss the effects of renewable and nonrenewable resource development and sustainability in Texas.
8. Locate on maps and/or photographs of Texas localities susceptible to tectonic, meteorological, and oceanographic hazards.
9. Discuss methods of hazard prevention and mitigation such as early warning techniques, construction methods, and civil planning specific to hazards in Texas.
10. Describe contributing factors to past and current climate change.
11. Analyze effects of climate variability on geological and biological systems in Texas.
12. Analyze diverse sources of data that document climate variability such as ice cores, dendrochronology, fossils, and pollen.
13. Relate the distribution of fossil fuel, metal and nonmetal resources to geologic processes in Texas.
14. Describe the methods of extraction of natural resources and their effect on the environment in Texas.
15. Describe renewable resources in Texas and methods of sustainability.

REQUIRED TEXTS/MATERIALS/SOFTWARE

This course will use select readings provided by the instructor.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODOLOGY

This course will be taught synchronously online in lecture and laboratory format.

DISTANCE EDUCATION *(for online or hybrid courses only)*

This course will meet online for lecture and lab. Students will use the Blackboard learning management system for assignment instructions, submitting assignments and collaboration. Students who are new to distance learning should review the ACC Distance Education General Information available at https://online.austincc.edu/faq/

STUDENT TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT

Austin Community College provides free, secure drive-up WiFi to students and employees in the parking lots of all campus locations. WiFi can be accessed seven days a week, 7 am to 11 pm. Additional details are available at https://www.austincc.edu/sts.

Students who do not have the necessary technology to complete their ACC courses can request to borrow devices from Student Technology Services. Available devices include iPads, webcams, headsets, calculators, etc. Students must be registered for a credit course, Adult Education, or Continuing Education course to be eligible. For more information, including how to request a device, visit http://www.austincc.edu/sts.

Student Technology Services offers phone, live-chat, and email-based technical support for students and can provide support on topics such as password resets, accessing or using Blackboard, access to technology, etc. To view hours of operation and ways to request support, visit http://www.austincc.edu/sts.

GRADING SYSTEM

Grading criteria should be clearly explained in the syllabus. The criteria should specify the number of exams and other graded material (exercises, term papers, homework, assignments, projects, etc.), and the weight assigned to them. Instructors should discuss the format of exams (multiple choice, short answer, essay, matching, combination, etc.). Guidelines for other graded materials, such as homework or projects, should also be included in the syllabus. Having explicit detail in this section helps to more easily resolve issues with student grades should they arise. Links to grading and evaluation rubrics could also be included here.

COURSE POLICIES

Faculty should detail their course policies. Many of these policies are defined by departments and will therefore be the same across all courses of that discipline.

Attendance/Class Participation

Each instructor should clearly express their attendance and class participation policies. The instructor also needs to be explicit about whether the class is synchronous or asynchronous, and what activities, e.g., discussion boards, have mandatory participation. If the course has a

laboratory component, clear guidance is needed on how the laboratory activities will be conducted.

If there are specific policies for field or laboratory activities, they could be included here. Some suggested wording is:
"Regular and punctual class and laboratory attendance is expected of all students. If attendance or compliance with other course policies is unsatisfactory, the instructor may withdraw students from the class."

Or for online courses:
"Regular and timely class participation in discussions and completion of work is expected of all students. If attendance or compliance with other course policies is unsatisfactory, the instructor may withdraw students from the class."

And to cover situations where classes are cancelled because of weather, pandemic, or other emergencies:
"The student is responsible for communicating with their professor during the closure and completing any assignments or other activities designated by their professor."

Withdrawal Policy

This should be clearly stated. The College defines withdrawals as occurring after the official reporting date of the semester, typically the 12th class day. In addition, the Legislature has mandated the Rule of Six (see below). There may also be financial aid issues.

Some possible wording might be:
"It is the responsibility of each student to ensure that his or her name is removed from the rolls should they decide to withdraw from the class. The instructor does, however, reserve the right to drop a student should he or she feel it is necessary. If a student decides to withdraw, he or she should also verify that the withdrawal is recorded before the Final Withdrawal Date. **The Final Withdrawal Date for this semester is [insert date here]**. The student is also strongly encouraged to keep any paperwork in case a problem arises.

Students are responsible for understanding the impact that withdrawal from a course may have on their financial aid, veterans' benefits, and international student status. Per state law, students enrolling for the first time in Fall 2007 or later at any public Texas college or university may not withdraw (receive a "W") from more than six courses during their undergraduate college education. Some exemptions for good cause could allow a student to withdraw from a course without having it count toward this limit. Students are strongly encouraged to meet with an advisor when making decisions about course selection, course loads, and course withdrawals."

Missed Exam and Late Work Policies

Each instructor should clearly express their policies with regard to missed exams, late homework or laboratory exercises, etc. Again, this helps immensely when dealing with student grade dispute

Incompletes

This policy should also be clearly stated. Recommended wording is:

"An incomplete (grade of "I") will only be given for extenuating circumstances. What constitutes "extenuating circumstances" is left to the instructor's discretion. If a grade of I is given, the remaining course work must be completed by a date set by the student and professor. This date may not be later than two weeks prior to the end of the following semester. A grade of I also requires completion and submission of the Incomplete Grade form, to be signed by the faculty member (and student if possible) and submitted to the department chair.

Students may request an Incomplete from their faculty member if they believe circumstances warrant. The faculty member will determine whether the Incomplete is appropriate to award or not. The following processes must be followed when awarding a student an I grade.

1. Prior to the end of the semester in which the "I" is to be awarded, the student must meet with the instructor to determine the assignments and exams that must be completed prior to the deadline date. This meeting can occur virtually or in person. The instructor should complete the Report of Incomplete Grade form.

2. The faculty member will complete the form, including all requirements to complete the course and the due date, sign (by typing in name) and then email it to the student. The student will then complete his/her section, sign (by typing in name), and return the completed form to the faculty member to complete the agreement. A copy of the fully completed form can then be emailed by the faculty member to the student and the department chair for each grade of Incomplete that the faculty member submits at the end of the semester.

3. The student must complete all remaining work by the date specified on the form above. This date is determined by the instructor in collaboration with the student, but it may not be later than the final withdrawal deadline in the subsequent long semester.

4. Students will retain access to the course Blackboard page through the subsequent semester in order to submit work and complete the course. Students will be able to log on to Blackboard and have access to the course section materials, assignments, and grades from the course and semester in which the Incomplete was awarded.

5. When the student completes the required work by the Incomplete deadline, the instructor will submit an electronic Grade Change Form to change the student's performance grade from an "I" to the earned grade of A, B, C, D, or F.

If an Incomplete is not resolved by the deadline, the grade automatically converts to an "F." Approval to carry an Incomplete for longer than the following semester or session deadline is not frequently granted."

COURSE OUTLINE/CALENDAR

The syllabus should contain a course outline for the lecture (and laboratory), outlining what students will be doing on what days, identifying test dates and other due dates. Instructors are encouraged to add a statement of variance, such as:
"Please note that schedule changes may occur during the semester. Any changes will be announced in class and posted as a Blackboard Announcement (or other resource faculty is using to communicate)."