



WACO, TEXAS

**COURSE SYLLABUS
AND
INSTRUCTOR PLAN**

**EARTH SCIENCE I – GEOL 1401.0080
(LECTURE & LAB)**

DR. ELAINE K. FAGNER, P.G.

NOTE: This is a 16-week course.

NOTE: This is an Online course.

EARTH SCIENCE I – GEOL 1401.O080

*****The Instructor Plan*****

The Instructor (IP) Plan is a binding contract between a student and the instructor/professor for the duration of this semester in Physical Geology. It is the responsibility of each student to be familiar with its contents and to follow the IP standards for the duration of the semester.

Course Description:

GEOL-1401 Earth Science I (4 Credits)

Survey of geology, meteorology, oceanography, and astronomy. Lab activities will cover methods to collect and analyze data in geology, meteorology, oceanography, and astronomy. Semester Hours 4 (3 lec/3 lab)

Prerequisites and/or Corequisites:

None

Instructor Information:

Instructor/Professor's Name: Dr. Elaine Fagner, P.G.

MCC Email: efagner@mcclennan.edu

Office Phone Number: 254-299-8442; Cell/Text Number: 254-853-0097

Office Location: Science Building, Room 222

Office/Conference Hours:

- Tuesday (virtual via Zoom or other virtual means): 1:00 pm – 3:45 pm CST
- Wednesday (in-person in Science 222): 9:00 am – 10:45 am CST
- Other meeting times outside of these hours should be made by advance appointment.

Other Office Hours Information: If the instructor needs to adjust her designated office hours for a specific week, a Brightspace announcement will be posted with this change. She has both in-person and virtual office hours each week.

In-person Office Hours: The instructor should be accessible in Science 222 or 235. Please let me know you are coming because I want to block out time for you.


- If I do have an appointment with another student and you come in, please wait patiently on the chairs around the corner in the common area and wait for me to come get you.
- If you have time constraints, email me while you are sitting out there and request another time slot with several options for me to select.


EARTH SCIENCE I – GEOL 1401.O080

Virtual Office Hours Zoom Link: Please click this URL to start or join Dr. Fagner’s virtual office hours by selecting the following link: <https://mclennan.zoom.us/j/2542998442>. You will likely be placed into a waiting room. If you are still waiting for more than 5 minutes once you enter the waiting room and we have a scheduled appointment, text and email me to see what is going on. If you are a drop-in to virtual office hours, please note that I will get to you as soon as my previous appointment has concluded.

*****Instructor Note about Contacting Your Instructor/Professor*****

The instructor’s preferred means of email contact is **efagner@mclennan.edu** and by **text at 254.853.0097**. As your professor/instructor, I care about you and your correspondence about this course. To make sure your important inquiry is received, your correspondence is required to include the following information:


1. Make sure you include your class name (**Earth Science**) and course number in the subject line of the email.
2. Write your email using formal English only (as if to the president of the company where you work).
3. Send all emails **using your MCC student email address** – external email addresses may be caught by the spam filter.
4. Include your cell phone number where the instructor can reach you to discuss the inquiry and include specific details about the nature of their question and what action or resolution they want to accomplish.
5. If the instructor asked for a specific action item or answer from you, provide an informative answer to that inquiry.
6. Attach documentation such as a screenshot or other information that will help the instructor assist them in a more productive manner. If documents are attached, use a PDF format or Microsoft Office formats (doc, docx, xls,xlsx, ppt, and pptx). **Course assignments will not be accepted by email unless specifically requested by the instructor.**
7.  Follow up with a voice message, text, and second email within 48-hours if a response is not received. Be proactive in getting answers to your questions or concerns.


 My goal is to be available to you to address any of your needs and questions pertaining to this course. I may not respond to your email or text messages between Friday and Sunday, because this is when I take my weekend break from work. I may not respond to email, phone, or text messages received at 9:00 pm CST on a regular class day. Generally, I try to check my messages at least once per day during the week; but the weekend responses are sporadic. Emails sent by students after 9:00 pm on Monday - Thursday may be responded to on the next class day. Allow for 24-hour turnaround for a reply to your email during week days, and 48-hrs on weekends.

*****Instructor Note about Contacting Your Instructor/Professor*****

EARTH SCIENCE I – GEOL 1401.O080

The instructor's preferred means of email contact is **efagner@mclennan.edu** and by **text at 254.853.0097**. As your professor/instructor, I care about you and your correspondence about this course. To make sure your important inquiry is received, your correspondence is required to include the following information:

1. Make sure you include your class name (**Physical Geology**) and course number in the subject line of the email.
2. Write your email using formal English only (as if to the president of the company where you work).
3. Send all emails **using your MCC student email address** – external email addresses may be caught by the spam filter.
4. Include your cell phone number where the instructor can reach you to discuss the inquiry and include specific details about the nature of their question and what action or resolution they want to accomplish.
5. If the instructor asked for a specific action item or answer from you, provide an informative answer to that inquiry.
6. Attach documentation such as a screenshot or other information that will help the instructor assist them in a more productive manner. If documents are attached, use a PDF format or Microsoft Office formats (doc, docx, xls, xlsx, ppt, and pptx). **Course assignments will not be accepted by email unless specifically requested by the instructor.**
7.  Follow up with a voice message, text, and second email within 48-hours if a response is not received. Be proactive in getting answers to your questions or concerns.

 My goal is to be available to you to address any of your needs and questions pertaining to this course. I may not respond to your email or text messages between Friday and Sunday, because this is when I take my weekend break from work. I may not respond to email, phone, or text messages received at 9:00 pm CST on a regular class day. Generally, I try to check my messages at least once per day during the week; but the weekend responses are sporadic. Emails sent by students after 9:00 pm on Monday - Thursday may be responded to on the next class day. Allow for 24-hour turnaround for a reply to your email during week days, and 48-hrs on weekends.

Required Text & Materials:

None required to be purchased since instructor utilizes open educational resources for this class.

MCC Bookstore Website: <http://www.mclennan.edu/bookstore/>

Course Notes and Instructor Recommendations:

The following course notes and instructor recommendations are required for each student to know who is enrolled in this course. This Instructor Plan is the contract between a student and the professor for the

EARTH SCIENCE I – GEOL 1401.O080

duration of this semester. Students are **required to meet the minimum computer system standards**, utilize a reliable internet connection, and engage with Brightspace on a weekly basis for this course. All of the course lecture and lab content within is accessible within Brightspace except designated course materials like books.

1. Students are **required to download the schedule** from this Instructor Plan and reference it all semester.
2. Students are **required to activate their Brightspace Notification feature** for this course so they are aware of when announcements are made, grades are posted, and/or assignments are due.
3. Students are **required to activate their MCC student email** and check it on no later than Monday and Thursday nights each week of the semester. Students are required to read the Instructors emails to the class and ones sent individually to them by the professor.
4. Students are required to submit typed or legible written assignments in a PDF format to Brightspace.
 - a. To do this, go to “File” and select “save type as” and then select “PDF” in the drop-down menu. PDF documents can be opened in any application. Any other file types cannot be opened by the instructor and will not be accepted.
 - b. The instructor only accepts assignments submitted to Brightspace, not via email or other digital venues unless with prior written approval.
5. Students are required to access PDF files and YouTube videos on a routine bases and have the computer capabilities to view these documents and save their assignments.
6. **If a due date or time in Brightspace inadvertently does not match the Course Instructor Plan, the date in the Course Instructor Plain supersedes dates posted in Brightspace.**
7. All major course exams are administered using the Respondus Monitor (LockDown browser), which is free for students to download within Brightspace. This software requires the use of a functioning webcam (computer video camera). The exam portals and the Respondus LockDown browser link are located in the Exams Folder.



Dual credit students are responsible for having their school load this software onto their computer before the due date of the first lecture quiz and both exams.

All students are required to take the “**Technology Check**” assessment found in the Exams Folder at least 72-hours before each exam, to make sure their technology works with the software. If a student discovers their computer, laptop, or tablet is not compatible with the LockDown browser, they are required to contact the instructor at least 72-hours prior to an exam due date to confirm their attendance for the set Zoom exam time.

- Students who have job commitments need to confirm their device works with the LockDown browser with ample time to ask off from their employer or to arrange for childcare.
- The College has student computers throughout the library that have this software and some

EARTH SCIENCE I – GEOL 1401.O080

have webcams. If a student needs to use this option, it is highly recommended to be waiting in line when the library opens on exam day. Here is a link to the Library for details on their services and hours of operation: <https://www.mclennan.edu/library/>

8. Students who take their assignments using limited internet or on their phones are likely to encounter submission issues. Students who experience technical difficulties when submitting their course assignments are required to provide verification by photographs, screenshots, or other means of documentation to support their claim. Students should expect to meet with their instructor by Zoom to discuss these issues and the course analytics the professor utilizes.
9. Learn how to utilize the format of the Brightspace shell as outlined in Course Brightspace Design section described next. The first folder in the Table of Contents has required elements that each student is expected to complete that outlines where all your assignments are for the semester.

Earth Science Course Brightspace Design:

To begin working in the course, select “Content” in the Brightspace Navigation Bar, then select the “Table of Contents”. You will see the following folders in the course Brightspace shell. Here is a guide to using the course Brightspace shell.

Essential Geology Roadmap Folder (start course here)	1 st Folder	This folder contains the course overview video, instructor Plan, grading information, the required student information survey, and additional important course information. It is the first folder in Brightspace and each part must be completed to open your Week 1 content.
Weekly Lecture & Lab Assignments Folder	2 nd Folder	Each folder has a weekly rundown followed by two sub-folders or modules as follows: Weekly Lecture Assignments and Weekly Lab Assignments.
Exams Folder	3 rd Folder	This folder contains all of the lecture videos, exam portals, exam rules, and review sheets.
Baby Yoda Bonus Folder	4 th Folder	This folder contains the bonus/extra credit opportunities provided for the course. Random bonus opportunities may appear without an announcement in this folder.
Important Student Resources Folder	Last Folder	This folder has been added by the College to all course Brightspace shells. Valuable student resources are provided in the folder.

Fulfilling Course Assignments (Lecture and Lab) and Course Grades

Lecture assignments (including lecture quizzes, exams, and other assignments) constitute 75% of a student’s grade in this course while lab assignments make up 25% of a student’s overall course grade.

EARTH SCIENCE I – GEOL 1401.O080

Students must realize that the weekly time investment for an online course is the same as the in-person meeting hours for the class (3 hours for lecture and 3 hours for lab per week). Therefore, students should expect to invest the same amount of time as two three hour lecture courses for Earth Science. Here are some key pieces of information related to assignments:

1. All assignments are found within the individual weekly assignment folders within the course Brightspace shell in the Table of Contents. The weekly lecture and lab folder has specific guidance on how a student will get a grade for their respective assignment.
2. Some labs require that students submit a lab form to Brightspace and others are done by using the student's completed lab form to take a corresponding assessment. When a lab assignment needs to be scanned, students will make a PDF scan to the specified lab assignment tool. Students are required to scan as one document using a scanning app or printer/scanner.
3. The instructor will **not** accept Google documents, "HEIC", "pages" and other formats that cannot be read by Brightspace; therefore, **students need to convert any assignment submissions into a Portable Document Format** and submit their assignments as a single PDF document. Students who submit assignments in different formats may not receive a grade for non-PDF assignments.

Methods of Teaching and Learning:

Teaching methods include, lectures, assessments (exams and quizzes), class and online discussions, lab exercises, projects, student self-guided or instructor-led field trips, student performances/presentations, written reports/papers, simulations, and/or scientific software.

Course Objectives and/or Competencies:

Lecture	Lab
1. Explain the current theories concerning the origin of the Universe and Solar System.	1. Classify rocks and minerals based on chemical composition, physical properties, and origin.
2. Explain the place of Earth in the Solar System and its relationships with objects in the Solar System.	2. Apply knowledge of topographic maps, diagrams and/or photographs to identify landforms and explain the processes that created them.
3. Relate the origin and evolution of Earth's internal structures to its resulting geologic systems, including Earth materials and plate tectonics activities.	3. Differentiate the types of plate boundaries, explain the processes that occur at each and identify associated structural features on maps, block diagrams, and cross sections.
3. Explain the operation of Earth's geologic systems and the interactions among the atmosphere, the geosphere, and the hydrosphere, including meteorology and oceanography.	4. Measure atmospheric processes that affect weather and climate.
4. Explain the history of the Earth including the evolution of earth systems and life forms.	5. Describe the composition and motion of ocean water and analyze the factors controlling both.
	6. Compare properties and motions of objects in the solar system.

EARTH SCIENCE I – GEOL 1401.O080

	7. Demonstrate the collection, analysis, and reporting of data.
--	---

Other Specific Student Learning Outcomes and Core Objectives:

A. Critical thinking assignments that focus on scientific knowledge related to problems involving how the Earth systems are linked to the Earth's environment and natural resources;

B. Assessing communication skills through quizzes and assignments that are largely written, while lectures gravitate toward visual components, and class discussions guarantee students' oral interactions when introducing the physical sciences at a collegiate level;

C. Empirical/quantitative assessments through lectures that allow students to see examples of specific case studies, research, and current events that pertain to data collection, analysis, and the scientific method as they pertain to understanding **geology** such as plate movements, landforms/landscapes changes, rocks and fossils, and natural disasters; **astronomy** as it relates to solar system objects, deep space exploration; **oceanography** issues such as shoreline management, ocean floor resources, the relationship between climate and ocean currents; **meteorology** issues including wind, air pressure, weather systems and climate impacts among other geoscience topics like sustainability and natural resource management; and

D. Communication through lectures, class discussions, and written assignments to determine student's understanding of core course objectives related to geoscience.

Course Attendance/Participation Guidelines:

If a student is not in attendance in accordance with the policies/guidelines of the class as outlined in the course syllabus as of the course census date, faculty are required to drop students from their class roster prior to certifying the respective class roster. A student's financial aid will be re-evaluated accordingly and the student will only receive funding for those courses attended as of the course census date.

Before the 60% point of the semester, a student who is absent for 25% or more of a face-to-face or blended course or who misses 25% or more of assigned work for an online course will be withdrawn from the course with a grade of W. A student may also request to be withdrawn with a grade of W before the 60% point of the semester. After the 60% point of the semester, the student may request to be withdrawn if the student is passing, or be assigned the final grade earned at the end of the semester after grades have been updated to reflect missing work.

*** Methods for Measuring Course Attendance ***
--

Students will be counted present for the week based on completion and submission of the Weekly Lecture Quiz by the due date/time listed in the Course Instructor Plan. In Week 1, attendance will be measured by

EARTH SCIENCE I – GEOL 1401.O080

completion of the Essential Course Roadmap quiz since no lecture quiz has been assigned. In Week 15, completion of the Final Exam will constitute a student's attendance.

[Click Here for the MCC Attendance/Absences Policy](https://www.mclennan.edu/highlander-guide/policies.html)

(<https://www.mclennan.edu/highlander-guide/policies.html>)

Click on the link above for the college policies on attendance and absences.

Course Assignment Due Dates/Times:

The weekly schedule for this course starts on Monday and ends on Friday unless otherwise noted in the Instructor Plan schedule. All due times are listed for Central Standard Time (CST). This course has "firm due dates"; therefore, students have lecture and lab assignments every week. It is the responsibility of a student to be familiar with, respect, and adhere to the course schedule and due dates. These due dates are predictable and are not subject to negotiation due to scheduling, childcare, or work commitments:

- **Lecture quizzes are due TUESDAY by 11:55 pm** of each week unless noted in the schedule within this document.
- **Lab assessments/assignments are due THURSDAY by 11:55 pm** of each week unless noted in the schedule within this document. Lab forms need to be converted to a PDF prior to submitting them on Brightspace.
- **Major course exams are due by NOON (12:00 pm)** on or before the specific date noted in the schedule within this document. Both exams open at least one week prior to the due date to help provide flexibility for students.



Students who work or need to arrange for child care, should be proactive and make necessary arrangements to take the exam early in the semester.

It is recommended that students download the schedule and print it out to reference all semester. Students should not rely on due dates in Brightspace; however, the instructor strives to maintain an accurate set of due dates in the course Brightspace shell. Please note that the schedule of assignments, quizzes, exams, and/or labs is subject to change for just cause by the instructor. If this occurs, the instructor will notify the students of the schedule change via Brightspace announcements. The schedule found in this Instructor Plan is the official schedule for the course.

Late Work and Make Up Work Policies:

The instructor for this course does not typically accept late work unless a student has a verified excused absence for the date of the missed quiz, lab assignment, or exam that meets the definitions of excused absences according to the MCC's Attendance Policy. Students must provide the instructor with

EARTH SCIENCE I – GEOL 1401.O080

documentation/verification of an excused absence via email to make up work within one calendar week of missing an assignment. Students who do not reach out to the instructor within this time frame will be required to meet with the instructor by Zoom to develop an education plan devised at the sole discretion of the instructor to address outstanding assignments for the course. The instructor will not approve education plans after Week 13 of the course.

Flexibility of Working Ahead in this Course:

At times, students may be allowed to work ahead in the course but please note that the instructor is not required to make future course content available before the scheduled date as noted in the course schedule. A student may complete available assignments early, but should not expect to receive credit on any assignments submitted past an assignment's specified deadline unless they have a documented excused absence.

Course Outline or Schedule (times are listed in Central Time Zone):

The course assignment due dates are consistent throughout the semester and the standard week is Monday through Friday all semester. In addition, assignment due dates and times are not "suggested", meaning they are firm and definitive deadlines. The instructor has set all due dates and times intentionally to help promote student success. If a student has work or childcare responsibilities or goes to a high school as a dual credit student, they need to make prior arrangements to complete their assignments before the due date/time. In the course schedule, review the number of asterisks by each lab assignment to determine if it is lab form submission assignment or a lab assessment assignment as follows:

- Labs denoted with one asterisk require students to use a completed lab form to take a corresponding assessment for a lab grade (such as *Week 2 Lab, *Week 3 Lab, and *Week 11 Lab). For these labs, students will not submit their lab form to an assignment tool.
- Labs denoted with two asterisks require students to submit a lab form as a single PDF document for a lab grade to a corresponding assignment tool in the weekly Lab Folder (such as **Week 4 Lab, **Week 5 Lab, **Week 6 Lab, **Week 7 Lab, **Week 9 Lab, **Week 10 Lab, **Week 12 Lab, **Week 13 Lab, and **Week 14 Lab). For these labs, students will not have a corresponding assessment to take.
- Labs denoted with three asterisk require students to participate in a discussion for their respective lab grade (such as ***Week 1 Lab).

EARTH SCIENCE I – GEOL 1401.O080

The Official Earth Science Course Schedule

Week 1: 1/8 – 1/12/2024

Essential Geology Roadmap Assignments (*these items must be completed for students to access the Week 1 content*)

- Download Course Instructor Plan (required element to release Week 1 content)
- Watch all of the Essential Course Road Map folder videos and open all of the links and read them. Each of these items are required to be completed in order to release the “Essential Roadmap Quiz”. In addition, you must make a grade of 100% to release your Week 1 content and all other Weekly Lecture and Lab Assignment content.

Lecture Assignments (learning objectives: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)

- Geologic Principles, Scientific Data, and Earth Science and corresponding lecture video.
- Content from this week will be incorporated in the Week 2 Lecture Quiz; therefore, there is not a different Week 1 Lecture Quiz besides the Week 1 survey for you to complete this week.

Lab Assignments (learning objectives: 1, 4, 6)

- Week 1 Lab Assignment – “Rocks Contain Clues” discussion post is due by Thursday of Week 1 at 11:55 pm. This assignment only requires students to submit an initial post. Review the assignment overview for guidance on interaction post requirements.

Week 2: 1/15 – 1/19/2024

Lecture Assignments (learning objectives: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)

- Rock Cycle and Fossils and corresponding lecture video(s)
- Week 2 Lecture Quiz by Tuesday of Week 2 at 11:55 pm (includes content from Weeks 1 & 2)

Lab Assignments (learning objectives: 1, 2, 3, 5, 6)

- Week 2 Lab Assignment: Rock Identification Lab is due by Thursday at 11:55 pm

Week 3: 1/22 – 1/26/2027

Lecture Assignments (learning objectives: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)

- Plate Tectonics and Continental Drift and corresponding lecture video(s)
- Week 3 Lecture Quiz due by Tuesday of Week 3 at 11:55 pm

Lab Assignments (learning objectives: 1, 4, 5, 6)

- Week 3 Lab Assignment *Assessing Plate Movements and Fossils Identification due by Thursday at 11:55 pm

Week 4: 1/29 – 2/2/2024

Lecture Assignments (learning objectives: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)

- Landforms and Changing Landscapes and corresponding lecture video(s)
- Week 4 Lecture Quiz due by Tuesday of Week 4 at 11:55 pm

Lab Assignments (learning objectives: 1, 4, 5, 6)

- Week 4 Lab Assignment **Understanding Geologic Landforms due by Thursday at 11:55 pm

EARTH SCIENCE I – GEOL 1401.O080

Week 5: 2/5 – 2/9/2024

Lecture Assignments (learning objectives: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)

- Geologic Disasters and corresponding lecture video(s)
- Week 5 Lecture Quiz due by Tuesday of Week 5 at 11:55 pm

Lab Assignments (learning objectives: 1, 4, 5, 6)

- Week 5 Lab Assignment **USGS Earthquake/Volcano Hazards due by Thursday of Week 5 at 11:55 pm

Week 6: 2/12 – 2/16/2024

Lecture Assignments (learning objectives: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)

- Astronomy Overview (Solar System, Sun, and Moon) and corresponding lecture video(s)
- Week 6 Lecture Quiz due by Tuesday of Week 6 at 11:55 pm

Lab Assignments (learning objectives: 1, 4, 5, 6)

- Week 6 Lab Assignment **Size Up Our Solar System due by Thursday of Week 6 at 11:55 pm

Week 7: 2/19 – 2/23/2024

Lecture Assignments (learning objectives: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)

- Astronomical Events and Celestial Bodies and corresponding lecture video(s)
- Week 7 Lecture Quiz due by Tuesday of Week 7 at 11:55 pm

Lab Assignments (learning objectives: 1, 4, 5, 6)

- Week 7 Lab Assignment **Understanding Planetary Atmospheres due by Thursday at 11:55 pm

Week 8: 2/26 – 3/1/2024

Lecture Assignments (learning objectives: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)

- Space Exploration and deep space and corresponding lecture video(s)
- Week 8 Lecture Quiz due by Tuesday of Week 8 at 11:55 pm

No Lab Assignments due to Midterm Exam

Midterm Exam due by NOON on Friday, 3/1 (includes lecture content from Week 1 – Week 8)

Week 9: 3/12 – 3/16/2024

Lecture Assignments (learning objectives: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)

- Ocean floor topography, fossil fuels, and corresponding lecture video(s)
- Week 9 Lecture Quiz due by Tuesday of Week 9 at 11:55 pm

Lab Assignments (learning objectives: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)

- Week 9 Lab Assignment **Understanding Ocean Salinity due by Thursday at 11:55 pm

Week 10: 3/18 – 3/22/2024

Lecture Assignments (learning objectives: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)

- Tides, waves, currents, shoreline features/coral reef and corresponding lecture video(s)
- Week 10 Lecture Quiz due by Tuesday of Week 10 at 11:55 pm

Lab Assignments (learning objectives: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)

- Week 10 Lab Assignment *Assessing Ocean Currents due by Thursday of Week 10 at 11:55 pm

EARTH SCIENCE I – GEOL 1401.O080

Week 11: 3/25 – 3/29/2024

Lecture Assignments (learning objectives: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)

- Understanding Climate Change and corresponding lecture video(s)
- Week 9 Lecture Quiz due by Tuesday of Week 1 at 11:55 pm

Lab Assignments (learning objectives: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6)

- Week 9 Lab Assignment *Earth's Energy Budget due by Thursday of Week 11 at 11:55 pm

Week 12: 4/1 – 4/5/2024

Lecture Assignments (learning objectives: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)

- Understanding Meteorology, wind patterns, and air pressure and corresponding lecture video(s)
- Week 12 Lecture Quiz due by Tuesday of Week 12 at 11:55 pm

Lab Assignments (learning objectives: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)

- Week 12 Lab Assignment **Understanding Droughts due by Thursday of Week 12 at 11:55 pm

Week 13: 4/8 – 4/12/2024

Lecture Assignments (learning objectives: 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7)

- Weather systems, forecasting, droughts, and wildfires and corresponding lecture video(s)
- Week 13 Lecture Quiz due by Tuesday of Week 13 at 11:55 pm

Lab Assignments (learning objectives: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6)

- Week 13 Lab Assignment **Understanding Wildfires due by Thursday of Week 13 at 11:55 pm

Week 14: 4/15 – 4/19/2024

Lecture Assignments (learning objectives: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)

- Sustainable Practices to Conserve Natural Resources and corresponding lecture video(s)
- Week 14 Lecture Quiz due by Tuesday of Week 14 at 11:55 pm

Lab Assignments (learning objectives: 1, 3, 6)

- Week 14 Lab Assignment **Ecological Footprint due by Thursday at 11:55 pm

Week 15: 4/22 – 4/26/2024 (Final Exam due on Friday, 4/26/2024)

Lecture Assignments (learning objectives: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)

- Earth Science in Action and corresponding lecture video(s)
- No lecture quiz is assigned for this week (content will be included on the Final Exam).

No Lab Assignments due to Final Exam

Exam Assignments: Final Exam due by NOON on Friday, 4/26/2024 (includes lecture content from Week 9 – Week 15)

Course Grading Information:

The grade scale used to calculate a student's overall average in this course is listed along with the percentage of each grade type: **A = 90 – 100; B = 80 - 89.9; C = 70 - 79.9; D = 60 - 69.9; and F = 59.9 or below.**

- 45% - Lecture Quizzes (requires Respondus LockDown Browser): 14 quiz assignments

EARTH SCIENCE I – GEOL 1401.O080

- 30% - Major Exams (requires Respondus Monitor): Midterm Exam (15%), Final Exam (15%)
- 25% - Lab Assignments: 14 lab assignments

Student Grade Concerns/Questions:

Grade feedback is typically provided to each student in the Brightspace gradebook on a weekly basis by the instructor; therefore, it is the sole responsibility of each student to check their assignment feedback each week. The instructor should typically have grade feedback posted for lecture quizzes and lab assignments updated in Brightspace that week by 10:00 pm on Wednesday of the following week.

To express concern for their course assignment grades, students are required to do the following: 1) Students are required to check their Brightspace grade feedback each week and send the instructor an email about the grade in question by one week after its original due date.; and 2) If a student has questions regarding their grades or feedback, they are required to email their instructor. If the student does not receive a response within 48-hours, they are required to do the following to resolve grade concerns or questions rather than rely on email correspondence: a) call the instructor and leave a message at 254.299.8442 and 254.853.0097; or join the instructor on Zoom during their virtual office hours to discuss the issue.

Student Grade Concerns/Questions:

Grade feedback is typically provided to each student in the Brightspace gradebook on a weekly basis by the instructor; therefore, it is the sole responsibility of each student to check their assignment feedback each week. The instructor should typically have grade feedback posted for lecture quizzes and lab assignments updated in Brightspace that week by 10:00 pm on Wednesday of the following week. To express concern for their course assignment grades, students are required to do the following:

1. Students are required to check their Brightspace grade feedback each week and send the instructor an email about the grade in question by one week after its original due date.
2. If a student has questions regarding their grades or feedback, they are required to email their instructor. If the student does not receive a response within 48-hours, they are required to do the following to resolve grade concerns or questions rather than rely on email correspondence: a) call the instructor and leave a message at 254.299.8442 and 254.853.0097; or join the instructor on Zoom during their virtual office hours to discuss the issue.

Student Behavioral Expectations or Conduct Policy:

Students are expected to adhere to MCC's conduct policy and maintain classroom decorum in a

traditional or online environment that includes respect for other students and the instructor. Students are required to fulfill regular attendance as noted in the course instructor plan, and adopt an attitude that seeks to take full advantage of the education opportunity. Should a student deviate from the College's conduct policy, they should expect to be meet with the instructor and/or be referred to the campus conduct office. Any student who participates in academic dishonesty such as cheating, plagiarism, or collusion on any problem on an assignment, quiz, or exam may receive an "F" for her/his semester grade and may be reported to the Disciplinary Council.

Often, in particular on short-answer questions, the instructor understands that students seek outside, scholastic material to locate additional information on various topics. However, be sure that you realize that **you cannot copy something and pass it off as your answer**. Students are expected to learn how to properly cite their sources and demonstrate their proficiency in content-related material.



INSTRUCTOR NOTE ABOUT STUDENT SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY....

There is a zero tolerance for cheating, collusion, and/or plagiarism for students enrolled in this course for any type of assignment. Deviation from any of the aforementioned course policies, will result in the following outcomes:

1st Offense: Written warning from the instructor, a grade of "0" will be issued for the activity in which the offense occurred, and a report made to Student Discipline/Conduct office.

2nd Offense: Report made to Student Discipline/Conduct office and student should expect to receive a failing grade in the course.

If a student is unsure as to what constitutes cheating/plagiarism, they need to ask for clarification before submitting an assignment. When applicable, it is a student's obligation to verify the authenticity of their work through proper citations. Unless expressly stated otherwise in the assignment instructions, all assignments are to be completed independently and should reflect one's own work. Working with other students or other individuals on an assignment without instructor permission is considered collusion and cheating. It is important to note that students are not permitted to use any resources when taking their lecture quizzes or major exams.

On occasion, two students in this course may share a common bond such as sharing a living space or being involved in the same collegiate or other organizational entity enroll in the same course. Students who share a common bond need to be sure their assignment work is clearly their own. It is recommended that students discuss their situation with the instructor at the beginning of the course about this issue and identify that they have a common bond.

EARTH SCIENCE I – GEOL 1401.O080

Students Requesting to Drop or Withdraw this Course:

If a student wishes to drop during the first few days of a semester, they should be able to drop themselves electronically without the instructor's approval. Students will need to email the instructor requesting to be dropped before the Census date or withdrawn after the Census date. All students making these requests should expect to meet with the instructor by Zoom within 48-hours.

10/09/2023



ACADEMIC RESOURCES/POLICIES

Accommodations/ADA Statement:

Any student who is a qualified individual with a disability may request reasonable accommodations to assist with providing equal access to educational opportunities. Students should contact the Accommodations Coordinator as soon as possible to provide documentation and make necessary arrangements. Once that process is completed, appropriate verification will be provided to the student and instructor. Please note that instructors are not required to provide classroom accommodations to students until appropriate verification has been provided by the Accommodations Coordinator. For additional information, please visit www.mclennan.edu/disability

Students with questions or who require assistance with disabilities involving physical, classroom, or testing accommodations should contact:

disabilities@mclennan.edu (254)299-8122
Room 319, Student Services Center

Title IX:

We care about your safety, and value an environment where students and instructors can successfully teach and learn together. If you or someone you know experiences unwelcomed behavior, we are here to help. Individuals who would like to report an incident of sexual misconduct are encouraged to immediately contact the Title IX Coordinator at titleix@mclennan.edu or by calling, Dr. Claudette Jackson, (Accommodations/Title IX) at (254) 299-8465. MCC employees are mandatory reporters and must report incidents immediately to the Title IX Coordinator. Individuals may also contact the MCC Police Department at (254) 299-8911 or the MCC Student Counseling Center at (254) 299-8210. The MCC Student Counseling Center is a confidential resource for students. Any student may report sexual harassment anonymously by visiting <http://www.lighthouse-services.com/mclennan/>

Additionally, Title IX provides rights and protections for pregnant and newly parenting students. Go to McLennan's Title IX webpage at www.mclennan.edu/titleix/. It contains more information about definitions, reporting, confidentiality, resources, and what to do if you or someone you know is a victim of sexual misconduct, gender-based violence or the crimes of rape, acquaintance rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, dating violence, or domestic violence.

Student Support/Resources:

MCC provides a variety of services to support student success in the classroom and in your academic pursuits to include counseling, tutors, technology help desk, advising, financial aid, etc. A listing of these and the many other services available to our students is available at <http://www.mclennan.edu/campus-resource-guide/>

Academic Support and Tutoring is here to help students with all their course-related needs. Specializing in one-on-one tutoring, developing study skills, and effectively writing essays. Academic Support and Tutoring can be found in the Library and main floor of the Learning Commons. This service is available to students in person or through Zoom. You can contact the Academic Support and Tutoring team via Zoom or email (ast@mclennan.edu) by going to our website (<https://www.mclennan.edu/academic-support-and-tutoring/>)

College personnel recognize that food, housing, and transportation are essential for student success. If you are having trouble securing these resources or want to explore strategies for balancing life and school, we encourage you to contact either MCC CREW – Campus Resources Education Web by calling (254) 299-8561 or by emailing crew@mclennan.edu or a Success Coach by calling (254) 299-8226 or emailing success@mclennan.edu.

Paulanne's Pantry (MCC's food pantry) provides free food by appointment to students, faculty and staff. To schedule an appointment, go to <https://calendly.com/paulannespantry-mcc/15min>.

The CREW, Success Coaches, and Paulanne's Pantry are all located on the second floor of the Student Services building in Success Coaching Services.

MCC Foundation Emergency Grant Fund:

Unanticipated expenses, such as car repairs, medical bills, housing, or job loss can affect us all. Should an unexpected expense arise, the MCC Foundation has an

emergency grant fund that may be able to assist you. Please go to <https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/scholarships-and-resources/emergencygrant.html> to find out more about the emergency grant. The application can be found at https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/docs/Emergency_Grant_Application.pdf

MCC Academic Integrity Statement:

Please view our [Academic integrity statement](#) for more information about academic integrity, dishonesty, and cheating. The unauthorized use of artificial intelligence (AI) for classwork can be a violation of the College's General Conduct Policy. Whether AI is authorized in a course and the parameters in which AI can be used in a course will be outlined by each instructor.

Minimum System Requirements to Utilize MCC's D2L|Brightspace:

Go to <https://www.mclennan.edu/center-for-teaching-and-learning/Faculty-and-Staff-Commons/requirements.html> for information on the minimum system requirements needed to reliably access your courses in MCC's D2L|Brightspace learning management system.

Minimum Technical Skills:

Students should have basic computer skills, knowledge of word processing software, and a basic understanding of how to use search engines and common web browsers.

Backup Plan for Technology:

In the event MCC's technology systems are down, you will be notified via your MCC student email address. Please note that all assignments and activities will be due on the date specified in the Instructor Plan, unless otherwise noted by the instructor.

Email Policy:

McLennan Community College would like to remind you of the policy (<http://www.mclennan.edu/employees/policy-manual/docs/E-XXXI-B.pdf>) regarding college email. All students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to use their McLennan email addresses when conducting college business.

A student's McLennan email address is the preferred email address that college employees should use for official college information or business. Students are expected to read and, if needed, respond in a timely manner to college emails. For more information about your student email account, go to www.mclennan.edu/studentemail.

Instructional Uses of Email:

Faculty members can determine classroom use of email or electronic communications. Faculty should expect and encourage students to check the college email on a regular basis. Faculty should inform students in the course syllabus if another communication method is to be used and of any special or unusual expectations for electronic communications.

If a faculty member prefers not to communicate by email with their students, it should be reflected in the course syllabus and information should be provided for the preferred form of communication.

Email on Mobile Devices:

The College recommends that you set up your mobile device to receive McLennan emails. If you need assistance with set-up, you may email Helpdesk@mclennan.edu for help.

You can find help on the McLennan website about connecting your McLennan email account to your mobile device:

- [Email Setup for iPhones and iPads](#)
- [Email Setup for Androids](#)

Forwarding Emails:

You may forward emails that come to your McLennan address to alternate email addresses; however, the College will not be held responsible for emails forwarded to an alternate address that may be lost or placed in junk or spam filters.

For more helpful information about technology at MCC, go to [MCC's Tech Support](#) or email helpdesk@mclennan.edu.

Disclaimer:

The resources and policies listed above are merely for informational purposes and are subject to change without notice or obligation. The College reserves the right to change policies and other requirements in compliance with State and Federal laws. The provisions of this document do not constitute a contract.