



**WBUonline**  
**School of Mathematics and Sciences**

**WAYLAND MISSION STATEMENT:** *Wayland Baptist University exists to educate students in an academically challenging, learning-focused, and distinctively Christian environment for professional success, lifelong learning, and service to God and humankind.*

**COURSE NUMBER AND TITLE:** GEOL 1403 – Earth Science  
for Educators **TERM:** Fall 1 Term – 2025 (August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025 –  
October 5<sup>th</sup>, 20225)

**INSTRUCTOR:** Joshua Reinhart

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Office Hours, Building and Location: Online (Email checked during regular  
business hours)

**CATALOG DESCRIPTION:** An introduction to rock and mineral materials, and the dynamic processes responsible for shaping Earth and providing our natural resources, such as plate tectonics, volcanism, and various surficial processes.

**PREREQUISITES:** None.

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND RESOURCE MATERIALS:** *Applications and Investigation in Earth Science, 9<sup>th</sup> ed., by Tarbuck & Lutgens; Pearson Publishing* (ISBN 13: 978-0-13-474624-1). In addition to the textbook, online access to MasteringGeology is **required for completion of class activities**. This access IS included with the Automatic eBook program. NOTE: The eTextbook cost included at registration through the WBU Automatic eBook program. **IMPORTANT: As an 8-week term, the course is very fast paced so it is imperative to have all course materials before the first week of class!**

**COMPUTER/SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS:** Software required includes an internet browser Firefox, Safari, Chrome, or Edge (check version compatibility on Blackboard login page- "Test Your Browser"), JAVA, and a current version of Microsoft Word. A high-speed internet connection is *highly recommended* due to some large file sizes and streaming media. The use of mobile devices (i.e., cell phone or tablet) may not work for some activities.

**IMPORTANT NOTES:** *As an online course, it is imperative that you have reliable access to the internet. Excuses for assignments being late due to internet reliability issues or computer failure will not be accepted. **The best way to avoid problems is to get assignments done early, so that if problems should arise, you can effectively deal with them prior to deadlines.***

The use of a Wayland Baptist University email account is **mandatory** for all correspondence in this course. This is the official means of communication between faculty and students. If you require assistance in getting this accessing your account, there is a link under "Web Resources" or contact the IT department at [itsupport@wbu.edu](mailto:itsupport@wbu.edu). Email from any other email account will not receive a response.

**OUTCOME COMPETENCIES:** Upon completion of the course the student will

- Be familiar with our current knowledge of all bodies within our solar system
- Understand surface and subsurface geologic processes, including rock and mineral identification, and concepts used in the study of the history of the earth
- Have knowledge of the properties and circulation patterns of the atmosphere, and relations to weather conditions and climate patterns
- Understand properties and circulation patterns of the ocean water including shoreline processes
- Be aware of the modern Plate Tectonics theory and be able to relate the above to this concept

**ATTENDANCE-TIME COMMITMENT:** The University expects students to make class attendance a priority. Attendance in the context of a Virtual Campus course implies logging into the Blackboard system and checking for announcements, viewing lecture materials, working on assignments, etc. on a regular basis, preferably twice per week at a minimum.

This is a four-hour lab course. As a lab class, it will take a greater commitment of time than other courses. If a student has previously taken online classes, they may find that this course takes much more time to complete. In a traditional classroom setting, this class would meet for about 3 hours per week PLUS another 2 hours for lab. A good rule of thumb is that students should reserve AT LEAST twice as many hours outside of class as they spend in-class to review material and complete assignments. While virtual campus students have the benefit of flexibility in scheduling when they will review lecture and course materials, the content of this course is NOT reduced from the traditional format and will require AT LEAST the same level of effort as the in-class version of the course! Therefore, in order to succeed in this course, students should be prepared to invest a MINIMUM of 15 HOURS per week, with additional effort required to study for assignments or to prepare for exams.

The course is not designed as a self-paced course and will be very difficult if the student falls behind.

NOTE: If any student expects special consideration because of family, job requirements and/or taking other classes, please do not enroll in this course. In order to remain fair to everyone, expectations are the same for all students. It is up to each student to decide prior to enrolling if they will have adequate time to commit to the course. No excuses because of other classes or commitments will be accepted for student's failure to comply with these requirements.

**STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM AND ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:** Wayland Baptist University observes a zero-tolerance policy regarding academic dishonesty. Per university policy as described in the academic catalog, all cases of academic dishonesty will be reported, and second offenses will result in suspension from the university. Please read and understand WBU's official policy regarding academic dishonesty - follow this [Link to Statement on Academic Integrity](#)

**STATEMENT ON GENERATIVE AI FOR THIS COURSE:**

No use of any generative AI tools permitted.

- Students are required to create and produce all work themselves or with assigned group members. Any work submitted that has used an AI generative tool like ChatGPT will be in immediate violation of the academic integrity policies for the course and WBU.
- All assignments must be fully created, designed, and prepared by the student(s).
- Any work that uses generative AI will be treated as plagiarism.

**DISABILITY STATEMENT:** In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), it is the policy of Wayland Baptist University that no otherwise qualified person with a disability be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any educational program or activity in the university. The Coordinator of Counseling Services serves as the coordinator of students with a disability and should be contacted concerning accommodation requests at (806) 291-3765. Documentation of a disability must accompany any request for accommodations.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS and GRADING CRITERIA:** Students will be evaluated by examinations, class assignments, participation, etc. as described below.

Homework Assignments: All assignments are due no later than the date AND time listed below as a part of the Course Schedule unless otherwise noted. The time is based on Plainview time (Central Time Zone U.S.). **Late assignments are graded as 0\***. Students should allow *at least* 2 hours per week to complete assignment activities. In order to pass the course, a passing grade must be earned on at least 50% of assignments. There will be 8 weekly labs and/or Pearson's *Mastering Geology and Oceanography* assignments posted. Students are expected to complete all assignments for regular credit, with the lowest assignment dropped at the end of the course.

Online Forums/Participation Assignments: Several questions/discussion topics will be posted during the term. Students are expected to respond to these postings *and* to each other's responses. The topics may be of current events, new discoveries, or any variety of Earth science related issues. Student responses may require some additional reading and extensive thought. Additionally, extra credit opportunities will become available throughout the term as needed.

Exams: There will be a total of 4 exams during the semester. The lowest score of one of the first 3 exams will be automatically dropped (the 4<sup>th</sup>/final exam score cannot be dropped). All tests are to be completed online and have specific dates for completion (to be announced).

**Tests not completed by that date will be graded as zero.** *With the exception of the final*, exams are open book. However, exams are designed to test a student's knowledge of the material and not their ability to look up questions. All exams are set to be completed within a specific amount of time. There is ample time to complete each exam provided adequate preparation. There will not be enough time to complete these exams if a student attempts to look up the majority of question. Exceeding the time limit will result in a deduction of points.

NOTE: *Due to university policy (stated in the student handbook), the final exam CANNOT be administered earlier than posted dates.* The final will *only* be available Tuesday through Saturday, the final week of the term. If there is conflict, the student may contact the Dean and Direct of WBUonline for special permission.

Grading Criteria: University Grading System: A=90-100, B=80-89, C =70-79, D=60-69, F=below 60. The final class grade is based on the average of grades that are earned as listed below.

|                         |                             | Points     |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|------------|
| Pearson Lab Assignments | 8 total assignments         | 400        |
| Participation           | 4 discussion board topics   | 100        |
| Exams                   | 3 total exams (best 2 of 3) | 300        |
| Final Exam**            |                             | 200        |
| <hr/> Total             |                             | <hr/> 1000 |

**Students who do not participate in discussions or pass at least half of the homework assignments will automatically fail the course. Completion of all assignments**

including extra credit will result in additional points being awarded to your overall grade. Additional extra credit will be provided throughout the semester.

**GRADE APPEAL STATEMENT:** *Students shall have protection through orderly procedures against prejudices or capricious academic evaluation. A student who believes that he or she has not been held to realistic academic standards, just evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course by using the student grade appeal process described in the Academic Catalog. Appeals may not be made for advanced placement examinations or course bypass examinations. Appeals are limited to the final course grade, which may be upheld, raised, or lowered at any stage of the appeal process. Any recommendation to lower a course grade must be submitted through the Executive Vice President/Provost to the Faculty Assembly Grade Appeals Committee for review and approval. The Faculty Assembly Grade Appeals Committee may instruct that the course grade be upheld, raised, or lowered to a more proper evaluation.*

**COURSE SCHEDULE OUTLINE:** (refer to “Due Dates” document posted in Blackboard for the specific dates that all coursework will be available and the deadline for submission).

| <b>Week #:</b> | <b>Subject</b>  | <b>Chapters Covered</b> |
|----------------|---|-------------------------|
| 1              | Introduction, Minerals, Rock Cycle, Rock Types                    | 1, 2, 23, 24            |
| 2              | Plate Tectonics, Earth’s Interior, Earthquakes, Volcanism         | 3, 4, 5                 |
| 3              | Geologic Time, Rock Structures, Remote Imagery, Maps              | 10, 6, 7                |
| 4              | Surface Processes – Water, Glaciers, Oceanography                 | 8, 9, 11, 12            |
| 5              | Atmospheric Properties – solar & terrestrial radiation / humidity | 13,14                   |
| 6              | Atmospheric circulation/weather patterns                          | 15, 16, 17              |
| 7              | Astronomy Introduction / Sun & Earth-Moon system                  | 18, 19, 20              |
| 8              | Solar system / Planetoids and beyond                              | 21, 22                  |

EXAM 1 covers weeks 1-2

EXAM 2 covers weeks 3-4

EXAM 3 covers weeks 5-6

EXAM 4 (Final exam)\*\* covers weeks 1-8 (approximately ½ of questions will be from weeks 7-8 with remaining questions being comprehensive-chapters 1-17).

NOTES: The instructor expects emails with questions or other concerns about the class or any course activities. Communication with the instructor regarding due dates should be initiated **BEFORE** items are due.

Exams, participation assignments and homework assignments are set to close at a pre-determined time (based on Plainview-CT). **Failure to submit any coursework by the posted deadline will result in a zero.**

This outline and other syllabus items are subject to change at university or instructor discretion.

Exception for serious illness (hospital time) or major emergencies may be allowed only at instructor discretion. You may be required to furnish evidence of any extenuating circumstances. If you are military and will be going TDY during the course, you need to let me know ahead of time (verification from a commanding officer may be required).

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**DUE DATES: Print this file and check often. MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!**

Below is a course schedule laid out for when assignments (participation discussions, labs, and exams) are available their due date. Most coursework is **available on Monday of each week** and **due on Sunday of each week**. Use 11:59

p.m. (Central Time-U.S.) as the cutoff time for the dates listed below (make sure that you submit your assignments based on

the time zone in Plainview, TX and NOT where you live). Remember –**all late assignments –INCLUDING EXAMS are**

**counted as "0" (unless prior arrangements are made)!!**

**NOTE:** the first participation assignment consisting of the *Email check/acknowledgment* and *Personal Profile* are due by end of day Wednesday, 01/17/2024 (instructions are listed in announcement posted first day of class). I am required by the university to submit attendance records at that time confirming some type of activity submission by each student.