

PELLISSIPPI STATE TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE
MASTER SYLLABUS

HISTORICAL GEOLOGY
GEOL 1050 (formerly GEO 1020)

Class Hours: 3.0

Credit Hours: 4.0

Laboratory Hours: 3.0

Date Revised: Fall 00

Catalog Course Description:

A study of the interrelated physical and biological changes occurring during Earth's 4.5 billion-year history. Geologic, biologic, and radiometric dating principles are used to interpret the rock and fossil records of change occurring on continents and in ocean basins that have affected the evolution of life on Earth. Course includes three hours of lecture and three hours of laboratory applications each week.

Entry Level Standards:

Students must have English and math skills at the college-level.

Prerequisite:

GEOL 1040

Textbook(s) and Other Reference Materials Basic to the Course:

Wicander and Monroe. 2000. *HistoricalGeology*, 3rd edition. Brooks/Cole.
Gore. 1999. *Historical Geology Laboratory Manual*. Georgia Perimeter College.

I. Week/Unit/Topic Basis:

Week	Topic
1	Introduction to historical geology and geologic time
2	Absolute time; Rocks, fossils, and time
3	Relative geologic time; Siliciclastic rocks
4	Carbonate rocks; Fossils and fossil preservation
5	Plate tectonics
6	History of the universe, solar system, and planets; Physical history of the Archean Eon
7	Biological history of the Archean Eon; Physical history of the Proterozoic Eon

8	Biological history of the Proterozoic Eon Physical history of the Early Paleozoic Era
9	Biological history of the Early Paleozoic Era
10	Early Paleozoic- western vs eastern North America Physical history of the Late Paleozoic
11	Biological history of the Late Paleozoic Era Physical history of the Mesozoic Era
12	Biological history of the Mesozoic Era
13	Biological history of the Mesozoic Era Physical history of the Cenozoic Era – Tertiary Period
14	Physical history of the Cenozoic Era – Quaternary Period Biological history of the Cenozoic Era - Tertiary Period
15	Biological history of the Cenozoic Era – Quaternary Period Evolution of primates and humans
16	Final Exam

II. Course Objectives*:

- A. Develop an understanding of the nature of science and the scientific method. I.5, III.1
- B. Develop an understanding that Earth is a dynamic planet and its history and features are consequences of natural processes that have operated throughout Earth' s history. I.5, III.2
- C. Develop an understanding of geologic time and the methods used to interpret earth history. I.5
- D. Develop knowledge of the features of the Earth and the processes by which they form. I.5
- E. Develop an understanding of evolutionary theory. I.5
- F. Develop knowledge of geology sufficient to understand earth science related events and issues presented in newspaper, magazine, radio, or television reports. I.5, VII.1
- G. Understand the use of simple techniques and equipment to identify common rocks, minerals and fossils. I.5
- H. Cooperate with student colleagues to research, analyze, and report on a geologically related topic. I.3, III.2, VI.1, III.3
- I. Develop an understanding of careers in geology. II.1, II.2

*Roman numerals after course objectives reference goals of the university parallel program.

III. Instructional Processes*:

Students will:

1. Engage in team work to foster cooperative learning. *Active Learning Strategies*

2. Approach problems both mathematically and verbally. *Communication Outcome, Problem Solving and Decision Making Outcome, Numerical Literacy Outcome*
3. Use critical thinking to solve problems. Laboratory work will be conducted in groups to encourage idea sharing. *Problem Solving and Decision Making Outcome, Active Learning Strategies*
4. Use critical thinking to evaluate news media reports. *Information Literacy Outcome, Communication Outcome*
5. Participate in literature and/or field research by conducting a student-directed study. *Active Learning Strategies, Numerical Literacy Outcome, Problem Solving and Decision Making Outcome, Personal Development Outcome*
6. Learn about careers in the geosciences: lecture presentations, video presentations, presentations by outside speakers. *Personal Development Outcome, Transitional Strategies*
7. Learn about the use of geoscience information for making public and personal decisions that affect safety, health, and financial security. *Problem Solving and Decision Making Outcome, Information Literacy Outcome, Personal Development Outcome, Technological Literacy Outcome, Transitional Strategies*
8. Gain fundamental knowledge of geological processes and materials that are prerequisites for study of upper level geology courses. This foundation is obtained through lectures, laboratory exercises, participating in field trips, and multimedia exercises. *Transitional Strategies*

*Strategies and outcomes listed after instructional processes reference Pellissippi State's goals for strengthening general education knowledge and skills, connecting coursework to experiences beyond the classroom, and encouraging students to take active and responsible roles in the educational process.

IV. Expectations for Student Performance*:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Discuss the roles of observation and reasoning in applications of the scientific method. A
2. Discuss the concepts of relative and absolute geologic time, and the methods of determining the geologic of geologic events and materials. C
3. Identify common earth materials using simple tests, and provide an explanation of the major processes that operated to create the materials in a laboratory setting. G, B
4. Identify common fossil materials and provide an explanation for the method of preservation. B, E, F, G
5. Discuss earth science related issues and events presented in news media reports. E, F, D, C, B
6. Identify dynamic earth processes (e.g., erosion, flooding, sinkholes, earthquakes, volcanism). B, D, G
7. Discuss the manner in which dynamic earth processes effect personal safety, health, and financial security. B, D, G

8. Discuss the possible careers in earth science. I

*Letters after performance expectations reference the course objectives listed above.

V. Evaluation:

A. Testing Procedures:

There will be 4 exams consisting of multiple choice and essay questions. Three lecture class tests account for 30% of the course grade. A final comprehensive test accounts for 20% of the course grade. Ten multiple choice quizzes will account for 10% of the course grade. Any student missing an exam will receive a score of zero for the missed exam, unless documentation for a valid excuse is presented to the instructor. Valid excuses include illness, family illness or death, jury duty, and military service. The instructor must be notified by phone before the examination, if possible, and a written excuse will be required.

B. Laboratory Expectations:

The laboratory component of the course grade will be determined on the basis of laboratory exercises, two examinations, and a group project paper and oral report. The laboratory component will account for 40% of the overall grade. Lab may not be made up. Late laboratory exercise reports may be submitted for ½ credit one week after the due date.

C. Field Work:

Field work may be included in research performed in cooperation with student colleagues to complete a group project report

D. Other Evaluation Methods:

N/A

E. Grading Scale:

90-100%	A
80-89.9	B
70-79.9	C
60-69.9	D
<60	F

*Quizzes may not be made up if missed.

VI. Policies:

A. Attendance Policy:

Pellissippi State Technical Community College expects students to attend all scheduled instructional activities. As a minimum, students in all courses must be present for at least 75 percent of their scheduled class and laboratory meetings in order to receive credit for the course. Individual departments/programs/disciplines, with the approval of the vice president of Academic and Student Affairs, may have requirements that are more stringent.

B. Academic Dishonesty:

Plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of academic dishonesty are prohibited. A student guilty of academic misconduct, either directly or indirectly through participation or assistance, are immediately responsible to the instructor of the class. In addition to other possible disciplinary

sanctions which may be imposed through the regular Mississippi State procedures as a result of academic misconduct, the instructor has the authority to assign an F or a zero for the exercise or examination or to assign an F in the course.

C. Other Policies:

Classroom disruptions during lecture or laboratory, any form of communication during testing, or any other form of behavior that may prove distracting to others will not be tolerated and may lower the final grade.