



## Course Syllabus

### GEOL 1404—Historical Geology

**Catalog Description:** A comprehensive survey of the history of life and major events in the physical development of Earth as interpreted from rocks and fossils. Laboratory activities will introduce methods used by scientists to interpret the history of life and major events in the physical development of Earth from rocks and fossils.

**Lecture hours = 3 Lab hours = 3**

**Prerequisites:** TSI Complete in Reading

**Semester Credit Hours:** 4

**Lecture Hours per Week:** 3

**Lab Hours per Week:** 3

**Contact Hours per Semester:** 96

**State Approval Code:** 40.0601.54 03

#### **Core Components and Related College Student Learning Outcomes**

This course counts as part of the academic requirements of the Panola College Core Curriculum and an Associate of Arts or Associate of Science degree.  Yes  No: If no, skip to Instructional Goals.

The items below marked with an X reflect the state-mandated outcomes for this course **IF this is a CORE course:**

- X Critical Thinking Skills – to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry and analysis, evaluation and syntheses of information
  - CT1: Generate and communicate ideas by combining, changing, or reapplying existing information
  - X CT2: Gather and assess information relevant to a question
  - X CT3: Analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information
- X Communication Skills – to include effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication
  - X CS1: Develop, interpret, and express ideas through written communication
  - X CS2: Develop, interpret, and express ideas through oral communication
  - X CS3: Develop, interpret, and express ideas through visual communication
- X Empirical and Quantitative Skills – to include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions
  - EQS1: Manipulate and analyze numerical data and arrive at an informed conclusion
  - X EQS2: Manipulate and analyze observable facts and arrive at an informed conclusion
- X Teamwork – to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal
  - X TW1: Integrate different viewpoints as a member of a team
  - X TW2: Work with others to support and accomplish a shared goal

- Personal Responsibility – to include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making
  - PR1: Evaluate choices and actions and relate consequences to decision-making
- Social Responsibility – to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities
  - SR1: Demonstrate intercultural competence
  - SR2: Identify civic responsibility
  - SR3: Engage in regional, national, and global communities

**Instructional Goals and Purposes:**

Students will learn the history of our planet and the life on it, and will understand the scientific processes used to decipher the history.

**Learning Outcomes: [from the ACGM catalog]**

After studying all materials and resources presented in the course, the student will be able to:

1. Describe how the application of the scientific method has led to our current understanding of Earth history.
2. Explain the historical development of Geology as a science and how it was influenced by early interpretations of fossils and the theory of evolution.
3. Communicate how principles of relative and numerical age dating have been used to develop the Geologic Time Scale.
4. Describe the processes involved in the formation and differentiation of the Earth and identify major milestones in the physical evolution of the planet.
5. Identify the major milestones in the evolution of life from its initial inorganic stages, through development of the major animal and plant groups, to mass extinctions.
6. Explain how rocks and fossils are used to interpret ancient environments.
7. Identify the major tectonic events in the geologic evolution of North America.

**Course Content:**

A general description of lecture/discussion topics included in this course are listed in the Learning Objectives section of this syllabus.

Students in all sections of this course will learn the following content:

1. Nature of scientific inquiry
2. Theory of Plate Tectonics
3. Formation and classification of minerals, igneous rocks, sedimentary rocks, and metamorphic rocks
4. Mechanical and chemical weathering processes, soil erosion
5. Geologic time and fossils
6. Geologic time scale
7. History of the geography, climatology, topography and biology of the planet from the Precambrian to Quaternary.

**Methods of Instruction/Course Format/Delivery:**

This course is offered fully online. Lecture material will be delivered via textbook reading assignments and pre-recorded Powerpoint presentations. Homework assignments for lecture will be submitted through Canvas.

Lab material will be delivered by reading assignments in students' lab manual and assignments submitted through Canvas. Students will complete a group lab project, due at the end of the semester. This will consist of students addressing a current issue in geology and creating a Powerpoint presentation with audio about this topic. Students do not need to be in the same location to complete this assignment, and virtual meetings are encouraged.

All lecture exams must be taken at a proctored testing center. Lab assignments may be completed on a home computer.

**Major Assignments / Assessments:**

The following items will be assigned and assessed during the semester and used to calculate the student's final grade.

**Assignments**

1. Weekly laboratory assignments
2. Homework assignments and quizzes
3. Lab final Project

**Assessment(s):**

1. Midterm Lecture Exam
2. Final Lecture Exam
3. Lab Final

**Course Grade:**

The grading scale for this course is as follows:

- Midterm Lecture Exams – 15%
- Lecture Final Exam – 15%
- Weekly Lecture Homework – 35%
- Weekly Lab Assignments - 25%
- Lab Final and Lab Project – 10%

**Texts, Materials, and Supplies:**

- Historical Geology by Wicander and Monroe
- Historical Geology Lab Manual by Pamela Gore
- Access to internet
- Access to Powerpoint or similar software
- Access to a scanner (see your local library)

**Other:**

- For current texts and materials, use the following link to access bookstore listings:  
<http://www.panolacollegestore.com>
- For testing services, use the following link: <http://www.panola.edu/elearning/testing.html>
- If any student in this class has special classroom or testing needs because of a physical learning or emotional condition, please contact the ADA Student Coordinator in Support Services located in the Administration Building or go to <http://www.panola.edu/student-success/disability-supportservices/> for more information.
- Withdrawing from a course is the student's responsibility. Students who do not attend class and who do not withdraw will receive the grade earned for the course.
- Student Handbook, *The Pathfinder*:  
<http://www.panola.edu/studentsuccess/documents/pathfinder.pdf>