Texas A&M University-Commerce
College of Arts and Sciences

Earth Science 461 Earth science for Teachers

ONLINE COURSE SYLLABUS

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Office: STC 233

Office Hours: By appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is designed for middle school (4-8) teachers with an emphasis placed on the four disciplines of Earth Science: geology, oceanography, meteorology and astronomy. Organization, materials selection appropriate for achieving curriculum objectives will also be included.

COURSE OBJECTIVES/OUTCOMES:

The student will learn basic concepts of the four fields of earth science.

The student will learn to prepare and present lab activities appropriate for middle school aged children.

The student will learn to write a basic lab report.

The student will learn to present material in multiple ways to engage many learning styles.

TEXTBOOK:


COURSE PLAN:

1. Read the assigned chapters each week.
2. View and study the power points for each chapter.
3. Complete an activity each week that will correspond to one of the chapters.
4. Take a quiz each week over the assigned chapters.
5. Complete a semester project by the assigned due date.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. The student will be expected to log into the course webpage often. Summer classes are fast paced, therefore any changes or additional instruction will have to be acted upon quickly. You cannot accomplish this if you do not check in routinely.
2. The student will follow the semester schedule found on the homepage of the course. The semester schedule contains weekly requirements and due dates. Late work will not be accepted unless accompanied by a university approved excuse.
3. The student will access and follow all course instructions found in the weekly/unit content area of the eCollege course.
4. The student will read the power points corresponding to the assigned chapters. PPTs will be found in the course content area and/or in docsharing.
5. The student will complete the assigned 'online' quizzes and exams by accessing the 'exam' or 'quiz' tool in the weekly content area on the assigned date.
6. The student will complete and submit assignments electronically using the eCollege dropbox tool/tab.
7. The student will complete an on-going semester project in accordance with the instructions given in this syllabus and the online course.

The activities assigned each week will be lab activities that can be done with middle school aged children. Each of the activities is designed to be done with a minimum investment in materials. Everything you will need should be available from any discount store. You will have to buy anything you do not have at home but again, costs will be minimal. You will be expected to turn in a lab report for each activity explaining what you did, any difficulties you had while doing it, and then you will discuss the results and whether the lab helped to cement the concepts and what you think middle school aged students would think of it.

The student project will be a power point lecture written by you (you will be assigned a topic) to use with middle school children. It must be written in a language they can understand. You will be graded on how well you explain the topic, how interesting you make it, and I will expect you to add as much “fun” stuff as you can. You may use videos, music, pictures, sounds, cartoons, yourself talking, whatever you would like. I will give you detailed instructions the first week of class.

COURSE ASSESSMENTS
“This course is made up of a series of assignments and assessments to assist you in achieving the course learning objectives/outcomes. Each week you will work on various combinations of assignments, activities, readings, etc. All activities have due dates, please pay attention to them. Quizzes are open each Monday from 12am until 11:59pm. If you try to open the quiz early, the program will think you have already taken it and not allow you back in on the appropriate day. Do not open quizzes early. You will not be able to see anything and will only cause yourself problems.

Quizzes = 40%
Activities = 30%
Project = 30%

100%

Course Objective/Learning Outcome #1:

Student will learn to prepare and present lab activities for the appropriate grade level. Students will learn to write a lab report for all activities.

Assessment Method: Activities will be graded on how well the activity is performed (I will know this from the lab report) the accuracy of the answers provided and the quality of the lab report

Activities: 100 points each – 30% of the overall grade

Course Objective/Learning Outcomes #2:

Quizzes will cover the required textbook reading and the content of the online power points. Complete the quizzes online by accessing the eCollege exam tool. The quizzes will be timed and grades made available to students following the submission of the quiz. If you lose Internet connectivity during the quiz or experience any issues while taking the quiz, you must contact the eCollege Helpdesk immediately so that your issue is documented with a helpdesk ticket number. Considerations regarding quiz issues will be made by the instructor on an individual basis based on the documentation.

Assessment Method: Quizzes are multiple choice.

Quizzes: 100 points each and 40% of the overall grade.
Course Objectives/Learning Outcome #3: Semester project: As stated there will be a project that consists of a power point presentation explaining an earth science concept of my choice. I will not dictate how long it must be. You must target the project to one of the middle school grades 6-8.

Assessment Method: Grades will be determined by how well the concept is explained to the target audience, accuracy of the information, and creativity.

Semester project: 30% of the overall grade.

GRADING

Grades will be determined as follows:

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<tr>
<th>Grades</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Activities</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grading Scale</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>80-89</td>
<td>B</td>
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<td>70-79</td>
<td>C</td>
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<td>60-69</td>
<td>D</td>
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<td>Below 60</td>
<td>F</td>
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STUDENT CONTACT

All email correspondence for this course will be sent to student myLeo email accounts. Please make it a habit to check email often and log in to the course daily to stay connected with the class.

SCHOLARLY EXPECTATIONS
All works submitted for credit must be original works created by the scholar uniquely for the class. It is considered inappropriate and unethical to make duplicate submissions of a single work for credit in multiple classes, unless specifically requested by the instructor. Work submitted is expected to demonstrate higher-order thinking skills and a dedicated study regime.

ADA STATEMENT

Students with Disabilities:

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu

CODE of CONDUCT

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/studentlife/guidebook%201.pdf).

Texas A&M University-Commerce does not tolerate plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. Conduct that violates generally accepted standards of academic honesty is defined as academic dishonesty. "Academic dishonesty" includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism (the appropriation or stealing of the ideas or words of another and passing them off as one's own), cheating on exams or other course assignments, collusion (the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing course assignments), and abuse (destruction, defacing, or removal) of resource material. http://www.plagiarism.org/ or http://www.unc.edu/depts/wcweb/handouts/plagiarism.html or http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml