

GEOLOGY 404C (#27355-27380)

PLATE TECTONICS AND EARTH HISTORY

INSTRUCTOR - Dr. James Sprinkle Office - JGB 4.106 Lecture – JGB 2.218
Mailbox in EPS 1.130A; office phone 471-4264; e-mail - echino@jsg.utexas.edu
Office Hours - Tu, Th 12:30-1 PM; F 12-1 PM, M, W 1-2 PM; other times by appointment

TAs – Felicia Kulp <felicia.kulp@gmail.com> and Zhi-Heng Li <lizhiheng1982@hotmail.com>;
Office hours in Lab Room JGB 3.116; hours to be selected

PREREQUISITES - A grade of C or better in GEO 401 or 303 or 312K or the equivalent.

COURSE TOPICS - The geologic time scale, new 2012 version (1st lecture)
- Structure and composition of the earth (2 lectures)
- Plate tectonics and its implications to earth history (5 lectures)
- Sedimentary rocks and depositional environments (5 lectures)
- Setting up and measuring “deep” geologic time (4 lectures)
- Fossils, history of life, and evolution (3 lectures)
- History of the Southern African & North American continents (7 lectures)
- Origin and evolution of invertebrates, plants, and vertebrates (9 lectures)
- Human evolution and place in nature (2 lecture)

Lecture Outlines (plus Syllabus, Lecture Schedule, and other information) will be posted on the GEO 404C Blackboard site: <<https://courses.utexas.edu/webapps/portal/frameset.js>>

TEXTBOOKS - D. R. Prothero and R. H. Dott, Jr. (2010), *Evolution of the Earth* (8th ed.), McGraw-Hill (Paper), and T. McCarthy and B. Rubidge (2005), *The Story of Earth & Life*, Struik Publishers (Paper). Both books are on reserve in the Geology Library (4th floor).

COURSE READING - Other reading assignments are in the Geology Library (4th floor) either on reserve (books), or in my file cabinet drawer (separates) at the back of the Reading Room.

EXAMS AND COURSE GRADES - Grades will be determined in the following manner:

<u>Lecture</u> - 2-week Friday quizzes (6 total, count top 5)	- 15%
- 1st Hour Exam - Friday, Feb. 15th	- 15%
- 2nd Hour Exam - Friday, Mar. 29th	- 15%
- Final Exam – Fri., May 10th, 2-5 PM, 2 hrs.	- 30%

<u>Discussion Section</u> - Exams, exercises, and participation	- 25%
Total	- 100%

Lecture quizzes, exams, and the final may include any of the following types of questions: true-false, multiple choice, matching, complete-the-answer, lists, definitions, problems, drawings or charts, and short to intermediate-length essays. All exams are closed-book and are usually intermediate in difficulty. Hour exams and the final are cumulative, covering all previous work up to the time of that exam; quizzes will cover the previous 2-weeks' work (usually 5-6 lectures). Marks will be carried

through as numbers, added up at the end of the course, and then curved to get a final grade. Last spring's average mark for this course was a 66.7 (top mark 91.8, lowest complete mark 45.8), and there were 9 As, 34 Bs, 23 Cs, 7 Ds, 6 Fs, 3 Xs, 2 Qs, & 1W in a fairly large class of 85, giving an overall class GPA of 2.33. Some plus and minus grades will be given to students near a major grade boundary.

ACADEMIC POLICIES - No special policy on drops, incompletes, or time extensions; see General Information Catalog, Part V. A make-up exam for a missed hour exam may be given at the instructor's discretion up to the time of the next lecture period (usually a Monday) when the corrected exams are returned. Last day to drop this course without academic penalty is Wednesday, Jan. 30th; last day to drop this course or withdraw (need Dean's approval) is Monday, April 1st.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 471-6259 or <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/>

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS – By UT Austin policy, a student must notify the instructor of a pending absence from class at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a lab assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, you will be given an opportunity to complete the missing work within a reasonable time after the absence.