Geology 1303 – physical geology; 11:00-11:50 AM, M-W-F;
Harold Gurrola, rm 318
Text: Understanding Earth 4th ed.; Press, Siever, Grotzinger and Jordan
Office hours: by appointment arranged by email (harold.gurrola@ttu.edu) or phone (742-3299).
Grading: A+ > 96, A >93%, A > 90; B > 87%, B > 83%, B > 80%; C > 77%, C > 73%, C > 70%;
D > 66%, D > 60%. There will be three tests, each worth 22% of the overall grade.
The final exam will count as 25 % of the final grade.
The remaining 9% of your grade will come from questions you submit to me based on
the material we cover. There will be more details as to this requirement in the “test
questions” section learning outcome section below.
Absences: There will be no make up quizzes. Do not skip any quizzes!!!!. The final exam
grade will replace the grade of any missing quizzes.

Week of subjects and quizzes
1-09-2006 Wednesday is 1st day of class. Introduction to geology, formation of Earth and
scientific method, CH 1,
1-16-2005 Jan 16 holiday; Earth’s interior, CH 21;
1-23-2005 Geological time, CH 10; Plate tectonics, CH 2
1-30-2005 Plate tectonics, CH 2; Sea floor CH 17;
2-6-2005 Evolution of continents, CH 20, Earthquakes, CH 19;
2-13-2005 Wednesday, Feb. 15, Test 1;
2-20-2005 Matter and Minerals, CH3; Rocks CH4;
2-27-2005 Igneous rocks, CH 5; Volcanism, CH 6;
3-6-2005 metamorphic rock, CH 9; Weathering erosion and soil, CH 7;
3-13-2005 Spring break
3-20-2005 Weathering erosion and soil, CH 7; Sedimentary rocks, CH 8;
3-27-2005 March 29, Wednesday Test 2; Topics from: Mass Wasting, CH 12; Running
water, CH 13; Ground water, CH14; Wind and deserts, CH15; Glaciations, CH 16
4-3-2005 Topics from: Mass Wasting, CH 12; Running water, CH 13; Ground water,
CH14; Wind and deserts, CH15; Glaciations, CH 16
4-10-2005 Geological time, CH 10; Deformation, CH11
4-17-2005 Monday no class, Landscape, CH18
4-24-2005 Monday April 24 Test 3;
April 26 period of no examination begins; Energy and Mineral Resources; CH
22; Earth’s environment, CH23
5-1-2005 Tuesday May 3, last day of class; Energy and Mineral Resources; CH 22;
Earth’s environment, CH23
5-5-2005 Friday, Final Exam 7:30 thru 10:00
Expected Learning Outcomes:
The objectives of this class will be to provide the students with a basic understanding of:
1) What science is;
2) How science works (i.e. the scientific method, how it is applied in geology);
3) Basic structure of the Earth and how the Earth formed;
4) The materials the Earth is made of and how they behave;
5) Surface processes;
6) Plate tectonics.

Methods of assessing outcomes:
Test review: To help me and the students evaluate their performance on each test we will have a class discussion of each test the day after the test. This will help me identify material that needs better coverage and provide feedback as to why students have trouble with certain material. It will also give students a chance to

Test Questions: A good way to determine if someone understands the material is to see if they can formulate good questions related to the material. Students will be expected to turn in test questions that I will possibly include on the four exams (including the final) during the semester. Each student will be expected to provide 2 questions per week. Only material from the most recent lecture will be permissible and these questions must be received within 24 hours of the previous class period. These questions must be in the same format at my regular test questions or they will receive no credit (see example below). If a student cannot arrive at two test questions per week they may submit a discussion question in the place of one test question. That is they can ask me a question about material they do not understand. This question must be very specific as to a problem they have in understanding the material or an aspect of the presentation that they find confusing. These questions will be used in class discussion. When you send me these questions you must have geol1303 as the subject line of your email.

Example question

1) What goes up:
   a) must come down       b) keeps on going       c) is red        d) is green
   e) all of the above.

The actual key strokes were

1) What goes up: <tab> <tab> <tab> <tab> <tab> <tab> <tab> <tab> <tab>
   a) must come down <tab>b) keeps going <tab>c) is red <tab>d) is green
   <tab> e) all of the above