**2011 / Maymester**  
**GOL 131 001**  
**Introductory Geology**

**Name:**  Dr. Wesley A. Brown  
**Department:** Geology  
**Email:** brownwa1@sfasu.edu  
**Phone:** (936) 468-2422  
**Office:** Miller Science, Room# 311  
**Office Hours:** M-F 1-3 PM or by appointment  
**Class meeting time and place:** E.L. Miller Science Building RM #335 (M-F 8:30-11:45)

**Text and Materials:**  
The Changing Earth (5th Ed.), J. S. Monroe and R. Wicander

**Course Description:**  
This course is designed for the student with no geology background. It is an introduction to the study of minerals, rocks, and the processes that modify and shape surface features of the Earth. We will focus on energy, mineral and water resources; volcanism; and other practical aspects of geology. This class will also convey an understanding of how Earth scientists utilize scientific principles to gain knowledge of the Earth.

**Tentative Course Schedule (GOL 131)**

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<th>Topics</th>
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<td>Ch.1</td>
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<td>Minerals – The building blocks of rocks</td>
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<td>Igneous Rocks and Intrusive Igneous Activity</td>
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<td>Volcanism and Volcanoes</td>
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<td>Weathering, Soil, and Sedimentary Rocks</td>
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<td>Metamorphism and Metamorphic Rocks</td>
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<td>Mass Wasting</td>
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<td>Shorelines and Shoreline processes</td>
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<td>Plate Tectonics: A unifying theory</td>
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<td>Deformation, Mountain Building’ and the Continents</td>
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<td><strong>Final Exam</strong></td>
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**Tentative Exam Schedule:** (NB: Take a pencil and a scantron to each exam)

- Lecture exam #1: Thursday, May 19th, 8:30 AM (16% of course grade)
- Lecture exam #2: Tuesday, May 24th, 8:30 AM (16% of course grade)
- Lecture exam #3: Friday, May 27th, 8:30 AM (16% of course grade)
- Final exam: Wednesday, June 1st, 8:30 AM -10:00 AM (17% of course grade)

**Grading Policy:**

Overall grade component weights: 66.7% exams, 33.3% laboratory assignments,

Overall grading:

- >90% = A
- 80-89.9% = B
- 70-79.9% = C
- 60-69.9% = D
- <60% = F.

**Program Learning Outcomes:**

There are no specific program learning outcomes for this major addressed in this course. It is a general education core curriculum course and/or a service course.

**General Education Core Curriculum Objectives/Outcomes:**

1. Understand and apply method and appropriate technology to the study of natural sciences. This assessment will evaluate the ability to use equipment necessary to identify minerals, such as hand lens, glass plates, and streak plates. These are basic tools used by geologists when differentiating minerals.

2. Recognize scientific and quantitative methods and the differences between these approaches and other methods of inquiry and to communicate findings, analyses, and interpretation both orally and in writing. This assessment will evaluate the ability to determine stream gradient which could be useful when determining the location of a structure.

3. Identify and recognize the differences among competing scientific theories. This assessment will evaluate the ability to understand the role of plate tectonics in the formations of rocks.

4. Demonstrate knowledge of the major issues and problems facing modern science, including issues that touch upon ethics, values, and public policies. This assessment will evaluate the ability to understand the critical role of water in today’s society. An understanding to rock porosity and permeability is necessary for an appreciation of the water dilemma.

5. Demonstrate knowledge of the interdependence of science and technology and their influence on, and contribution to, modern culture. This assessment will evaluate the ability to understand destructive places to dwell in stream-drainage areas. A focus on floodplains and cut-banks of rivers will be addressed.
**Student Learning Outcomes:**
The student is expected to understand and apply the following concepts to the environment:

1. Understand and apply method and appropriate technology to the study of natural sciences.
2. To recognize scientific and quantitative methods and the differences between these approaches and other methods of inquiry and to communicate findings, analyses, and interpretation both orally and in writing.
3. Identify and recognize the differences among competing scientific theories.
4. Demonstrate knowledge of the major issues and problems facing modern science, including issues that touch upon ethics, values, and public policies.
5. Demonstrate knowledge of the interdependence of science and technology and their influence on, and contribution to, modern culture.

**Office Hours:**
I have listed my scheduled office hours at the top of this syllabus. Please feel free to drop by or call to raise questions or concerns regarding this course. If you need to speak to me but cannot come to my office during the posted hours, I will make an appointment to meet with you at another time. You can also email or Facebook me at anytime.

**Lecture:**
You are expected to be prepared for each lecture period by reading the material to be covered in lecture prior to attending class. This will help you to better comprehend the material given during the lecture. Questions are always welcome and I encourage you to ask. If you are confused about the material, I guarantee there is someone else with the same question. Do not be afraid to ask, I am always happy to clarify anything that is unclear.

For this course you will not need your calculator, your cell phone, or any other electronic device while I am presenting the lecture. Please turn the ringers off while you are in class, ringing phones and beeping electronics are very distracting and disrespectful to those around you and to your instructor. Refrain from sending and receiving text messages in class.

If you come in late, please take the first available seat quietly. Things happen, but try to plan ahead. Parking is difficult, but it has been for some time. When you arrive late, it is very distracting to me and to other students. If you are habitually late, you will miss a large block of material. This will negatively affect you at test time and when I consider your class participation grade.

If you become ill or have a restroom emergency during the lecture, please excuse yourself quietly. If you need to study for another class, the library is available. If you need to nap, that is best done at home – not in the classroom.
Exams:
Each exam will always include a multiple-choice section. Therefore, always bring a 50 questions scantron (Form 882) to each test. Other sections may include: matching; true/false questions; short answers; fill in the blanks; and/or short essay questions. The final exam will be comprehensive (as required by the College of Science and Mathematics). All exams will take place in room 335 unless otherwise stated. The use of cell phones and programmable calculators will not be permitted during exams. A review sheet for the upcoming exam may be issued during the week prior to the date of the exam.

If you have a scheduling conflict with an exam for an officially sanctioned University reason, you may take the exam at a different time or date. However, you must inform me at least a week before the exam. **Make-up exams** will only be given in documented cases of illnesses, official university activities, or deaths in the family. If the final is missed for a legitimate excuse and cannot be made up in a timely fashion, an "Incomplete" will be given. **Make-up exams** may be in essay format.

Attendance Policy:
Attendance is required in both lecture and laboratory sessions, and lecture attendance will represent part of your final course grade (1.7 %). Lecture attendance will be tabulated using a sign up sheet that will be handed out at the beginning of each class. After 15 minutes you may not be allowed to sign the sign up sheet. You are allowed to have no more than one unexcused absence in order to earn 1.7% for attendance.

Course Evaluation:
At the end of the semester you will be asked to evaluate this course. Evaluations will be done on-line and you will be reminded when the evaluation period starts. The course evaluation **MUST** be done before the final exam. Students who fail to complete their course evaluations may receive and “Incomplete” grade for the course.

Academic Integrity (**A-9.1**):
Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty
Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained
from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit.

In the hopes of deterring incidents of cheating and/or plagiarism this class employs a "zero tolerance" policy meaning that if a student commits cheating or plagiarism they receive a grade of F for the class.

Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp

**Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (A-54):**
Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

The circumstances precipitating the request must have occurred after the last day in which a student could withdraw from a course. Students requesting a WH must be passing the course with a minimum projected grade of C.

**Add/Drop Policy:**
Students may add courses through the 2nd class day during the summer semesters and through the 4th class day during the fall or spring semesters. Academic Department Chairs may reconcile class schedules through the official reporting date. Students may drop classes through five working days past mid-semester or mid-session as applicable. A student will not be allowed to drop a course after these dates, unless he or she withdraws from the University. For information please visit: (http://www.sfasu.edu/upp/pap/academic_affairs/add_drop.html)

**Students with Disabilities:**
To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.