CoSM Class Syllabus / Policy

2017 / Fall
GOL 101.002
Fundamentals of Earth Science

Name: Dr. Kevin W. Stafford
Department: Geology
Email: staffordk@sfasu.edu
Phone: 936-468-2429
Office: E.L. Miller Science 309
Office Hours: MW 9:00–12:00; TH 11:00-13:00
Class meeting time and place: TH 8:00 – 8:50 : TBA

Text and Materials:
• The Changing Earth (6th Ed.), Monroe et al. (recommended* not required)
• 3 scantrons (Form 882)

Course Description:
Fundamentals of Earth Science (GOL 101) Two hours lecture, two hours laboratory per week. An introduction to the fundamental principles of Earth Science: topics include the earth’s structure and surface landforms; mineral and energy resources; geologic hazards such as volcanoes, earthquakes and landslides; water resources; and the unifying theory of plate tectonics. Required lab fee. No prerequisites

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:
The student is expected to develop the following core objectives established by the THECB.
CO 1. Critical Thinking Skills – creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information. (SLO 1-4)
CO 2. Communication Skills – effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication. (SLO 4-5)
CO 3. Empirical and Quantitative Skills – manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions. (SLO 1-2,4)
CO 4. Teamwork – the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal. (SLO 3-5)

Student Learning Outcomes for Lecture and Lab:
After successful completion of this course students will be able to:
SLO 1. Demonstrate an understanding of fundamental geologic concepts as it relates to Earth processes and landscape evolution through geologic time.
SLO 2. Use quantitative reasoning to interpret geologic data (tables, figures, graphs) from primary research, data assimilation and models to assess the differences in competing scientific theories associated with rock formation.
SLO 3. Demonstrate knowledge on the interdependence of science and technology and the influences geologic reasoning associated with identifiable and testable hypotheses of geologic processes.
SLO 4. Critically assess the interrelationships between geologic phenomenons and communicate the resulting conclusions in oral, visual and written formats.
SLO 5. Demonstrate an understanding of the skills and attitudes necessary for effective teamwork in collaborative learning activities.
Course Requirements:
GOL101 (Fundamentals of Earth Science) is an introduction to the study of the earth’s structure and natural processes. In this course, students will be introduced to and apply the scientific method to evaluate hypotheses regarding the earth’s structure, the distribution of natural resources, the immediate and long term impact of geologic hazards, and anthropogenic influence on the natural world.

This class is a 3-credit hour course and has a weekly requisite lab where students will gain hands-on experience with earth materials, gathering and analyzing data, communicating their findings and working as a team to explain scientific processes. Grades from the lecture and lab will be averaged, with the lab counting 1/3 of the grade. You will receive one grade for the entire course, assigned by your lecture instructor.

- **Exam #1** (Tuesday, 03 October 17) – Exam focuses on all lecture material covered in class between 29 Aug 17 and 28 Sept 17.
- **Exam #2** (Thursday, 07 November 17) – Exam focuses on all lecture material covered in class between 05 October 17 and 07 November 17.
- **Final Exam** (University Scheduled) – Comprehensive final exam, including all lecture material covered throughout the semester.

Lecture Course Calendar:
Tentative schedule of topics to be covered in GOL 101 lecture include:

- 29 Aug 17 – Introduction and overview of course
- 31 Aug 17 – Geologic Time – Part 1
- 05 Sept 17 – Geologic Time – Part 2
- 07 Sept 17 – Overview of Earth History
- 12 Sept 17 – The Rock Cycle
- 14 Sept 17 – Igneous Rocks
- 19 Sept 17 – Sediment & Erosion
- 21 Sept 17 – Sedimentary Rocks
- 26 Sept 17 – Metamorphic Rocks
- 28 Sept 17 – Review for Exam 1
- 03 Oct 17 – Exam #1
- 05 Oct 17 – Plate Tectonics 1
- 10 Oct 17 – Plate Tectonics 2
- 12 Oct 17 – Plate Tectonics 3
- 17 Oct 17 – Volcanoes
- 19 Oct 17 – Earthquakes
- 24 Oct 17 – Mountain Building
- 26 Oct 17 – Mass Wasting
- 31 Oct 17 – Climate / Weather
- 02 Nov 17 – Review for Exam 2
- 07 Nov 17 – Exam #2
- 09 Nov 17 – Soils
- 14 Nov 17 – Surface Water – Part 1
- 16 Nov 17 – Surface Water – Part 2
- 21 Nov 17 – Thanksgiving – NO CLASS
- 23 Nov 17 – Thanksgiving – NO CLASS
- 28 Nov 17 – Groundwater – Part 1
- 30 Nov 17 – Groundwater – Part 2
- 05 Dec 17 – Energy Resources
- 07 Dec 17 – Make-Up Exams (if needed)
- University Scheduled – Final Exam
Grading
- Lecture grades will consist of 2 exams (30% each of lecture grade) and a comprehensive final exam (40% of lecture grade).
- Total points: 67% (Lecture) + 33% (Lab) = 100%
- Grade Scale: >90% = A; 80-89.9% = B; 70-79.9% = C; 60-69.9% = D; <60% = F

All exams will include a multiple-choice section; therefore, ALWAYS bring a scantron (Form 882) and a #2 pencil for exams. Additional sections will vary between exams but may include any or all of the following sections: 1) true / false questions; 2) fill in the blank questions; 3) short answer questions; 4) figure illustration; 5) short essay questions. All exams will take place in room 335 unless otherwise stated in class.

Cell phones, calculators, and other electronic devices are NOT permitted during exams. If you are using them in an exam, it will be assumed that you are cheating and you will receive a grade of “0” on that exam.

Exam scheduling conflicts for officially sanctioned university reason will be accommodated at a different time or date. In the event of such conflicts, you must inform me at least one week prior to the exam to reschedule your exam.

Make-up exams are only given in documented cases of official university activities, illnesses or deaths in the family. If the final is missed for a legitimate excuse, an “Incomplete” will be given at the final and a make-up exam can be taken at the beginning of the next semester. All make-up exams will be administered on Thursday, 7 December 2017 and may be entirely essay format.

Attendance Policy:
- Daily attendance will be taken for university accounting purposes. Success in this course will reflect the level effort you put into the course.
- Be prepared for lectures by reading the material to be covered in lecture prior to attending class. Questions are encouraged and welcome – do not hesitate to ask questions in class.
- No electronic devices are needed during lectures for this class, including cell phones and calculators. Please turn them off and do not use them in class. Ringing phones and beeping electronics disturb others in the class and interrupt lectures. If you interrupt class with your personal electronic devices, you will be asked to leave for the day.
- If you are late to class, please seat yourself quietly. Try not to be late because it interrupts others in the class. If you need to use the restroom or become ill, please excuse yourself from the lecture quietly.
- If you need to study for another class, do it elsewhere. The classroom is not the place to sleep either. Basically, refrain from activities in lectures that will distract or disturb the other students in the room, because you are all paying for the class and most people want to get what they are paying for.

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.

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.

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/.