CoSM Class Syllabus / Policy

2017 / Fall Semester
GOL 101.500 & GOL 101.530
Fundamentals of Earth Science

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Office Hours: This is an online course and office hours will be offered electronically

Class meeting time and place: The lecture and laboratory portion of this class are both online classes. Please refer to the detailed calendar found as a webpage on d2l.

There is a mandatory quiz associated with the initial course information and syllabus, so please read all the information in this unit carefully and then complete the Course Information and Syllabus Quiz in order to proceed into the course material.

Note: this quiz must be completed before any of the course material will be made available, the lecture modules will remain locked until you complete this quiz.

Text and Materials:
- *The Changing Earth* (6th Ed.), Monroe et al. (recommended* not required)
- *Fundamentals of Earth Science Laboratory Kit* (required, available in the SFA Barnes & Noble bookstore)

*No textbook is required, but I recommend that you purchase a text if your personal learning style benefits from having a textbook for reference; there are no required textbook assignments, but it can be beneficial. Previous editions purchased through various booksellers would also be a viable option. Textbook editions vary little in content; updates are generally associated with pictures and graphics.*

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 phenomena 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 combined, with the lab counting 1/3 of the grade. You will receive one grade for the entire course, assigned by your instructor.

**Time**

Remember, you are expected to spend the same amount of time on online courses that you would spend for in the classroom for face-to-face courses. That is, expect to spend two hours per week on the lecture portion and two hours per week on the laboratory portion. In addition, success in this course would also require additional time spent in the material and studying; reports indicate that two to three additional hours (per credit hour) be spent---independent of whether the class is online or face-to-face. Many of you are choosing to take an online course because of your work schedule, family responsibilities, and scheduling conflicts, so your time is precious. Be aware of the time commitment required by this course and work responsibly.

**Course Topics:**

**Earth Structure**
- Geologic Time / Earth in context
- Minerals
• The Rock Cycle
  o Intrusive Igneous Rocks
  o Weathering and Erosion
  o Sedimentary Rocks
  o Metamorphic Rocks and the Rock Cycle

Earth Processes
• Plate Tectonics
• Earthquakes
• Volcanoes
• Plate Tectonics and the Natural Environment

Earth Resources
• Fossil Fuels
• Mineral Resources
• Water Resources
• Soils

Earth in Society
• Populations and Resources
• Alternative Energy

*Please see the Course Calendar webpage for the dates associated with each of these topics.

Access to Content
I will provide access to the content on the weekend (Saturday morning, 12 a.m.) prior to when it is listed on the Course Calendar. By no means are you required to begin the content that over the weekend, but some of you have very tight schedules and could benefit from an early start. All lecture exams will be available on Fridays between 12:00 a.m. and Saturday 12:00 p.m. (noon). You will be able to receive your score on exams or quizzes immediately, provided there are no answers that need to be individually graded such as fill-in-the-blank or short answer questions. In these cases, time will be needed to review the assessments and make sure questions were asked and graded fairly. Answers to quiz and exam questions will be available once every classmate has submitted their assessment, but that day is usually on Monday after assessments are taken. Quizzes, unit, and module content will be available until 11:59 p.m. the day before an exam, but module content cannot be viewed the day of an exam. So, plan appropriately!

Lecture Examination Schedule:*  
• Exam 1: September 29, 2017  
• Exam 2: October 20, 2017  
• Exam 3: November 17, 2017  
• Final Exam: December 11, 2017

*Please see the Course Calendar webpage for the opening and closing times associated with these exams.

All lecture exams will include a multiple-choice section with additional sections that will vary between exams but may include any or all of the following sections: 1) multiple choice questions; 2) true / false questions; 3) fill in the blank questions; 4) short answer questions; 5) figure illustration; 6) short essay questions. All exams will take place online and be delivered via d2l. The exams will cover questions from lecture modules and assigned activities and outside sources (videos, webpages) referred to in the material. The essay questions are part of the test and I expect you to use complete sentences, correct grammar and spelling.
There are between 30 and 50 questions each on each exam, and you will be given 60 minutes to complete the exams. The exams are not cumulative, but they are timed and you will not have adequate time to refer back to Unit/Module content. Questions on lecture exams and quizzes are written by the instructor, and the assessment content has been presented in the online content. D2L randomly selects questions from a question bank, and they appear one question at a time. You may not return to any question and change your answer after leaving that page so be sure of your response (study ahead of time!) before answering. It is recommended that you save your responses as you complete each question because of unknown timing of computer or power failure. I cannot help you if questions have not been saved. Once the time allotment for the exam has expired, the exam will be ended and scored.

No outside work or extra credit will be assigned to help improve your grade, so be prepared for the quizzes and exams. It is imperative that you log on and participate in all course material, pay attention to the course calendar, and keep up with the due dates for quizzes, discussions, and exams. In other words – get your money’s worth!

**Dependable internet connection**

Especially when taking quizzes or exams, always rely on a dependable internet connection. I do not recommend taking an assessment via your phone or any public wireless connection (McDonalds, Starbucks, etc).

**Discussion Board**

The Discussion Board can be used as a place to exchange information between the instructor and classmates. There will be a general "Questions" post where students can ask questions regarding the course content. This is helpful to all, and I will respond to questions as quickly as possible. I always appreciate questions, and am happy to try to help. Please keep your discourse respectful to all, inappropriate comments will not be tolerated.

**Lecture Grading Policy:**

- Four exams @ 100 points each = 400 points
- Six online quizzes @ 10 points each = 60 points
- Seven discussion posts @ 10 points each = 70 points
- Total possible points = 530 points
- Lecture grade = your total points / 530, then multiply by 100
- *Example: your lecture point total 405 / 530 = 0.76 x 100 = 76*

**Laboratory Grading Policy:**

- Two exams @ 100 points each = 200 points
- Ten laboratory quizzes @ 10 points each = 100 points
- One Laboratory Press Release @ 20 points each = 20 points
- One Laboratory Group Position Statement @ 25 points each = 25 points
- One Group Survey @ 5 points each = 5 points
- Total possible points = 350 points
- Laboratory grade = your total points / 350, then multiply by 100
- *Example: your laboratory point total 242 / 350 = 0.69 x 100 = 69*

**Course Final Grading Policy**

- Lecture counts 2/3 (66.7%) of the final course grade
Lab counts 1/3 (33.3%) of the final course grade
Total Points for Final Grade: 33.3% (Lab) + 66.7% (Lecture) = final course grade
Example: Lecture grade = 76, Lab grade = 69
76 x .667 = 50.7; 69 x .333 = 23.0; 50.7 + 23.0 = 73.7 final course grade

Grade Scale: 90-100 + A, 80-89 + B, 70-79 + C, 60-69 + D, < 60 = F

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/.