CoSM Class Syllabus / Policy
2017 / Fall Semester
GOL 132.001
The Earth Through Time: Historical Geology

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Office Hours: M: 10-11 AM, 2-4 PM; T: 1-4 PM; W: 3-4 PM; R: 3-4 PM; F: 10-11 AM

Class meeting time and place: MWF: 11:00 AM – 11:50 AM; E. L. Miller Science 234

Please feel free to stop by any time to ask questions, discuss any problems you may be having with the material or to help facilitate further understanding. If these hours conflict with your schedule, please call or email to make an appointment.

Text and Materials:
- 4 scantrons (Form 882)

Textbooks can be purchased (or rented) at SFA bookstores, or online through various vendors. If you purchase an older edition, the content is mostly the same although the corresponding chapter numbers listed in the syllabus may vary.

Course Requirements:
This course is an introduction to the fascinating and complex processes of planet Earth – an ever-changing dynamic environment. Billions of years of processes, both tranquil and violent, have sculpted the surface of the earth and helped create the landforms we see today. Historical Geology is the history of these processes. Brief glimpses in the rock record and current technology gives us keys to understanding the development of continents, ocean basins, mountain chains, volcanoes, earthquakes and many other cataclysmic events.

The rock record has also preserved the remains of various life forms, from microscopic invertebrates to large carnivorous reptiles and wooly mammoths. In this course, we will study some of the various life forms that have evolved over time, their relative success and some of the factors that brought about their demise.

This class is a 4-credit hour course and has a requisite lab where you will gain hands-on experience with fossils, sedimentary rocks and enhance your map reading skills.

Student learning in the lecture portion of this course will be evaluated through four exams.
- **Exam #1** – Exam focuses on Geologic Time, Plate Tectonics and Sedimentary Rocks.
- **Exam #2** – Exam focus on Sedimentary Environments, Evolution and Paleontology.
- **Exam #3** – Exam focus on Paleogeography, Paleontology and Paleoecology of the Precambrian, Paleozoic and Mesozoic.
- **Final Exam** – Comprehensive final including all lecture material covered throughout the course, with an emphasis on Cenozoic Paleogeography, Paleontology and Paleoecology and large scale trends throughout Earth history.
Course Calendar:

Topic & Text Chapter

Tentative schedule for Historical Geology (GOL 132):
- Introduction and Geologic Time (Ch. 1)
- Geologic Time (Ch. 17)
- Plate Tectonics (Ch. 2 & 9)
- Sedimentary Rocks (Ch. 7)
- **Exam #1**
  - Seafloor and facies (Ch. 16)
  - Evolution (Ch. 18)
  - Paleontology & Modes of Preservation (Ch. 7)
  - Paleobiology (Ch. n/a)
- **Exam #2**
  - Overview of Earth History (Ch. 17 & 19)
  - Precambrian (Ch. 19)
  - Paleozoic (Ch. 20 & 21)
  - Mesozoic (Ch. 22)
- **Exam #3**
  - Cenozoic (Ch. 23)
  - Human Evolution (Ch. 23)
  - Solar System (Ch. 1)
  - Geology of Texas (Ch. 24)
- **Exam #4**

*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.*

Grading Policy:
- Exam 1, 2, & 3 worth 20% each
- Final Exam worth 25% (Final grade will replace lowest exam grade)
- Attendance 3%
- Participation 2%
- Assignments worth 10%

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

  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 in room 234 unless otherwise stated in class.

  Make up exams will be given only for documented, excused absences, may be comprehensive, and may be given during dead week. No outside work or extra credit will be assigned to help improve your grade, so come prepared for the exams. Therefore it is imperative that you attend all lectures and labs, pay attention in class, take detailed notes and use those notes to study. In other words – get your money’s worth!

  Each hour exam will consist of multiple choice, fill in the blank, and essay questions from lecture, assigned reading material and current geologic events discussed in class. You will need a Scantron (Form 882) and a number 2 pencil for the exams.
**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 prior to attending class. Questions are encouraged and welcome – do not hesitate to ask.
- 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. You are here to learn, not correspond with your friends.
- 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.

**Classroom Etiquette:**
- Do not disturb either the instructor or any other students.

**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](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), HumanServicesBuilding, 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/.