CoSM Class Syllabus / Policy

2018 / Fall Semester
GOL 131 Laboratory
Introductory Geology

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Office: E.L. Miller Science, Room 307
Office Hours: TWR: 1-4 PM

Class meeting time and place: Room 302 or 308 Miller Science, varies according to section.

The laboratory classes will be staffed by Graduate Teaching Assistants. Labs will start on the 2nd week of school. Each teaching assistant will post their office room number, phone number, and office hours. If these times conflict with the schedule of a student, appointments may be made with the teaching assistant. Grades CANNOT be given out over the phone or through email.

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.

Course Description:
Introductory Geology Laboratory (GOL 131L) – One semester hour, two hours laboratory per week. Designed for the student with no geology background. Introduction to the study of minerals, rocks, and the processes that modify and shape the surface features of the Earth. Focus on energy, mineral and water resources; volcanism; and other practical aspects of geology. 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 Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board has identified six core learning objectives: Critical Thinking Skills, Communication Skills, Empirical and Quantitative Skills, Teamwork, Personal Responsibility, and Social Responsibility. SFA is committed to the improvement of its general education core curriculum by regular assessment of student performance on these six objectives. By enrolling in GOL 101 Fundamentals of Earth Science, you are also enrolling in a Core Curriculum Course that seeks to develop the following core objectives established by the THECB:

- **Critical Thinking Skills** – creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.
- **Communication Skills** – effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication.
- **Empirical and Quantitative Skills** – manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions.
- **Teamwork** – the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal.
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 visual and written formats.

SLO 5. Demonstrate an understanding of the skills and attitudes necessary for effective teamwork in collaborative learning activities.

Text and Materials:
*Introductory Geology Laboratory Manual* (available in all SFA bookstores)

The lab manual is **required** and will be needed the first day of lab, the week of September 4th, 2018.

A new lab manual must be purchased from the bookstores. Each new lab manual contains perforated quiz pages that must be turned in to get credit for the weekly in-class lab quizzes.

Course Requirements:
This class is a 1-credit hour course and has a weekly requisite lab where you will gain hands-on experience with geologic materials such as mineral and rocks, analyze geologic data, and interpret geologic landforms through an understanding of topographic maps. You will receive a separate grade for the laboratory section of the course, assigned by the laboratory coordinator.

*** Due to the distraction that they provide, laptops will not be allowed unless you have a directive from Disability Services. No exceptions!!

Attendance Policy:
Attendance is mandatory for understanding the material and participating in class. Opportunities for make-up exercises/exams must be approved by the Laboratory Coordinator for **EXCUSED** absences only. The following constitutes an excused absence:

- Illness: note from doctor for day of the lab.
- Death in Family: must be documented by obituary clipping from newspaper or funeral home.
- Jury Duty: must be documented by note from judge or other court official.
- School Function: name must appear in Faculty Bulletin or note must be sent from instructor, coach, etc.

After a student has missed more than 3 labs, 10 points will be deducted from the final lab average for each additional absence. Two times tardy to class will count as one absence. You are expected to come to lab, to be on time, and to stay for the duration of the lab. Whenever it is possible, arrangements should be made BEFORE the lab time so that provisions can be made.

If you become ill or have a restroom emergency during the lab period, please excuse yourself quietly. If you need to study for another class or read the paper, the library is available. If you need to nap, that is best done at home – not in the classroom. If you are sleeping or reading other material, you cannot be
participating and I will assume you to be absent in mind and spirit, if not in body, for the day. Use your
time wisely and learn how to plan ahead.

**Laboratory Exercises:**
Weekly laboratory exercises will reinforce lecture material with practical exercises designed to enhance
specific General Education Core Curriculum Objectives. Each week, students will be introduced to these
core objectives in the form of classroom exercises and electronic assignments delivered through the SFA
platform Desire2Learn (d2l). Students will be responsible for accessing and completing pertinent
materials from d2l.

Each week, the student will be responsible for:

1. Required reading of the upcoming chapter in the lab book to help prepare for the laboratory
   exercises.
2. A weekly requisite electronic pre-quiz administered through d2l before the laboratory meeting to
   ensure the student is prepared for the laboratory exercises.
3. Laboratory exercises completed in class. During the laboratory exercises, students will work
   individually and in teams to complete the in-class assignments.
4. A weekly in-class quiz to test comprehension of the laboratory exercises.
5. A weekly requisite electronic post-quiz administered through d2l after the laboratory meeting to
   ensure retention of the material.

The electronic quizzes will help to prepare you for the lab exercises assigned the following week and
reinforce the material covered in the laboratory exercises. The pre-quizzes will cover selected reading
material assigned, the post-quizzes will help students synthesize the material and retain the information.
All quizzes, both electronic and in-class, should be taken individually. The electronic quizzes will open
on Friday at 12:00 a.m. and remain available until Monday at 12 midnight of the following week. Since
the electronic quizzes will be open for several days and are available 24 hours a day during the open
period, **makeup quizzes must be completed within 2 weeks of the regularly scheduled due date.**

**Grading Policy**
Your laboratory grade will consist of the following:

- Weekly laboratory exercises (11 exercises @ 10 points each) 110
- Weekly electronic pre-quizzes (10 quizzes @ 5 points each) 50
- Weekly electronic post-quizzes (9 quizzes @ 5 points each) 40
- Online exams (Midterm and Final Exam, 25 points each) 50
- In-class exams (Midterm and Final Exam, 100 points each) 200

Total Points 450

Major exams will consist of two parts: an online exam delivered through the d2l platform and a classroom
exam during the laboratory period. Grades for laboratory classroom activities, exams, and electronic
assignments will be delivered through d2l.

You **will** receive a separate grade for your laboratory performance. Your final grade for the laboratory
section of the course will be assigned by the Laboratory Coordinator and posted to the University grading
system at the appropriate time. Weekly lab grades will be posted using Desire2Learn (d2l), which can be
accessed through https://d2l.sfasu.edu. You may log in using your mySFA username and password.

**Missed Work and Make-up Exams:**
All make-up exams are departmental and will be given at one time. It is the responsibility of the student to find out the date and time of the exam. The Laboratory Coordinator can provide that information. All quizzes/exams must be made up NO LATER THAN 2 WEEKS AFTER REGULARLY SCHEDULED TIME. In order to make-up exams or classroom quizzes, you must have an EXCUSED ABSENCE.

Each lab must be completed during the lab period. You must be present for the entire lab in order to turn in the lab exercise at the conclusion of the lab. Cell phones, tablets, and other electronic devices are NOT permitted during the class or 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. If you are using them in class, you will be asked to leave.

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/.
**First Aid Information:**
Dilute hydrochloric acid (10%) will be used in this lab to assist in mineral identification.

**FIRST AID:**
- **EYE CONTACT:** If eye contact occurs, flush eyes with plenty of running water and continue for at least 15 minutes. Get medical attention if irritation persists.
- **SKIN CONTACT:** Flush affected skin area with water. Wash with soap and water. If irritation occurs, consult a physician.

**Helpful Numbers:**
- Campus Information: 468-4696
- Student Help Desk: 468-4357
- Desire2Learn Help: 468-1919
- Geology Department: 468-3701
- Laboratory Coordinator: 468-2236

**Emergency Numbers:**
- Campus Police: 468-2608
- Emergency: 911
- SFA Health Clinic: 468-4008
- Poison Control Center: 800-222-1222
- Domestic Violence & Rape Crisis Hotline: 800-828-7233
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**DATES FOR EXAMS AND QUIZZES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE!**