Name: Dr. Mindy Faulkner  
Department: Geology  
Email: mgshaw@sfasu.edu  
Phone: 936-468-2236  
Office: E.L. Miller Science, Room 310  
Office Hours: MW: 10:00 – 12:00; 1:00 – 4:00; or by appointment

Class meeting time and place: TBA, Laboratory will be conducted in the field November 6-10 in East Texas and Central Arkansas.

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:
- **Open source text: An Introduction to Geology** written by Chris Johnson, Matthew D. Affolter, Paul Inkenbrandt, Cam Mosher from Salt Lake Community College [http://opengeology.org/textbook/](http://opengeology.org/textbook/)  
- Background information for field stops will be provided on d2l  
- Handouts for field exercises will be provided by the instructor

Course Description:
Fundamentals of Earth Science (GOL 101) Three semester hours, 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)
Fundamentals of Earth Science

CO 2. **Communication Skills** – effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written 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. (Critical Thinking, Empirical and Quantitative Skills)

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. (Critical Thinking, Empirical and Quantitative Skills)

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. (Critical Thinking, Teamwork)

SLO 4. Critically assess the interrelationships between geologic phenomenons and communicate the resulting conclusions in visual and written formats. (Critical Thinking, Communication, Empirical and Quantitative Skills, Teamwork)

SLO 5. Demonstrate an understanding of the skills and attitudes necessary for effective teamwork in collaborative learning activities. (Communication, Teamwork)

**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.

Fundamentals of Earth Science is a **3-credit hour course** and has a co-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.

**For this course, all laboratory exercises will be conducted in the field on our field trip, scheduled for Wednesday, November 6 – Sunday, November 10. This field trip is mandatory, and an important part of your final grade for GOL 101 – Fundamentals of Earth Science.** We will travel in University vans with drivers to points of interest in Texas and Arkansas and discover geology in the field. We will visit rock quarries, an extinct volcano with diamonds, a quartz mine, hydrothermal springs, and many others to learn
about the unique geology of East Texas and Arkansas. Laboratory exercises will be
designed to help you engage with the natural environment and learn about natural
resources, rocks, minerals, and other geologic phenomena. Excuse letters will be
provided for the classes you may miss.

Time:
The U.S. Department of Education Definition of the Credit Hour: a credit hour is an
amount of work represented in intended learning outcomes and verified by evidence of
student achievement that is an institutionally established equivalency that reasonably
approximates not less than one hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a
minimum of two hours out of class student work each week for approximately fifteen
weeks for one semester of credit.

GOL 101L - Fundamentals of Earth Science laboratory meets for a minimum of 25
laboratory contact hours during the semester, including the final exam. Students are
required to complete assignments based on laboratory manual readings, periodic
quizzes and exams over course content, plus a final exam. Students will be required to
complete assignments that evaluate their comprehension of earth materials and
processes. Successful completion of all elements for the course requires at least two
additional hours of out-of-class work each week.

Grades:
Your grade for GOL 101L.040 will consist of your individual written field report based on
the exercises and notes from your field work, and a small-group field trip presentation.
The individual field report is worth 100 points, the small-group presentation is worth 50
points. Rubrics will be available on d2l for the report and presentation.

During the field trip, you are expected to take notes, complete the course packet (to be
provided) as directed, photograph field trip stops and samples, and participate in course
activities (e.g., sample collection). For this work, you will need a clipboard (or other
writing surface), pencil, eraser, pencil sharpener (if necessary), and a digital camera or
smartphone. You will also want to have some baggies and a Sharpie to save and label
any samples you collect.

Grading Policy:
Lecture counts 2/3 (66.7%) of the course grade.
- Each exam counts 15% each;
- Outside activities, discussion posts count 6.7%;
- Lab counts 1/3 (33.3%) of the final course grade.
- Total Points: 33.3% (Lab) + 66.7% (Lecture) = 100%
- Grade Scale: 90-100 = A, 80-89 = B, 70-79 = C, 60-69 = D, < 60 = F
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 lecture instructor.

**Tentative Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>Supplementary Material</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 26</td>
<td>Course Information</td>
<td>Rec Center Information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TBA*</td>
<td>Organizational Meeting</td>
<td>Campground Information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TBA*</td>
<td>Organizational Meeting</td>
<td>Field Gear Information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TBA*</td>
<td>Organizational Meeting</td>
<td>Meal Prep and Supplies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 6-10</td>
<td>Laboratory Field Trip in East Texas and Central Arkansas</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TBA*</td>
<td>Post field trip Meeting</td>
<td>Field Report Information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 25-27</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Holidays</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 2</td>
<td>Field Trip Report Presentations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 4</td>
<td>Field Trip Report Presentations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Meeting times will be discussed in our first class meeting and will be arranged such that all students can attend and receive important information.

- Exact dates and times for class meetings will be announced in class and posted on d2l at least one week in advance.
- Field notebooks will be collected at the end of the field trip for grading. They will be returned promptly so you can use the information to put together your group presentation.

**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:
- Ball caps and hats should be removed while in the classroom.
- Pants should be worn as they were designed. Wear appropriate clothing.
- Headphones, earbuds, or other auditory devices will not be allowed during lecture.
- No tobacco products, electronic cigarettes, or vapor products are allowed.
- Do not distract other students or the instructor.

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/.