GOL 131 Syllabus – Fall 2019
Introduction to Physical Geology

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Office Hours: As this is a web-based course, office hours will be offered electronically.

Course Description

4 semester hours. 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.

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 131 Introduction to Physical Geology, 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

1. Understand minerals and their physical properties.
2. Gain an understanding of rocks, their physical properties, and how they form.
3. Study the external forces at the Earth’s surface and how those forces modify and shape the Earth’s surface.
4. Study the morphological features that external forces produce on the Earth’s surface.

Time

Remember, you are expected to spend the same amount of time on online courses that you would spend for F2F (face to face) courses. That is, expect to spend three hours per day on the lecture portion and two
hours per day on the laboratory portion. In addition, reports for success indicate that two to three additional hours (per credit hour) be spent—indepedent of whether the class is online or F2F. In other words, 16 hours/week should be spent on lecture content and 16 hours should be spent on lab content. Many of you are working, have families, or taking other classes, so your time is limited. I have experienced the same, so I understand your position.

Course Calendar

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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Unit 1: Atoms and Minerals</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Week of August 26</td>
<td>Module 1: Introduction to Geology</td>
<td>• Read syllabus, semester calendar, and week's content&lt;br&gt;• Take Get Started Quiz and Cheating &amp; Plagiarism Quiz by Friday, August 30. <em>Note: These assessments will not count toward your final grade. However, you will be unable to advance in the course until you complete them.</em>&lt;br&gt;• Complete Student Introduction by Friday, August 30, 11:59 p.m. (CST).&lt;br&gt;• Order LabPaq Kits <strong>now</strong> so that they will be available when you begin the lab course content.&lt;br&gt;• Access to Gol 131 Laboratory Get Started information begins on Monday, August 26, 12:01am, and it should be reviewed.&lt;br&gt;  o Access to Gol 131 Laboratory content/worksheets/quizzes does not begin until Saturday, August 31, 12:01am.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week of September 2</td>
<td>Module 2: Atomic Review</td>
<td>• Read week's content&lt;br&gt;• Complete Quiz #1 (over Unit 1, Module 2), by Friday, Sept 6, 11:59 p.m. (CST)&lt;br&gt;• Access to lab content begins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week of September 9</td>
<td>Module 3: Mineral Physical Properties</td>
<td>• Read week's content</td>
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| Week of September 16 | Module 4: Mineral Compositional Groups | - Read week's content  
- Complete Quiz #2 (over Unit 1, Module 4), by Friday, Sept 20, 11:59 p.m. (CST) |
|----------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Week of September 23 | Unit 1 Review | - Complete Lecture Exam #1 on Thursday, Sept 26 (available from 12:01 a.m. to 11:59 p.m.)  
- Complete Lab Exam #1 on Friday, Feb. 27 (available from 12:01 a.m. to 11:59 p.m.) |

**Unit 2: Rocks**

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<th>Week of September 30</th>
<th>Module 1: Igneous Rocks</th>
<th>- Read week's content</th>
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| Week of October 7    | Module 2: Weathering   | - Read week's content  
- Complete Quiz #3 (over Unit 2, Module 2), by Friday, Oct 11, 11:59 p.m. (CST) |
| Week of October 14   | Module 3: Sedimentary Rocks | - Read week's content |
| Week of October 21   | Module 4: Metamorphic Rocks | - Read week's content  
- Complete Quiz #4 (over Unit 2, Module 4), by Friday, Oct 25, 11:59 p.m. (CST) |
| Week of October 28   | Unit 2 Review | - Complete Lecture Exam #2 on Thursday, October 31 (available from 12:01 a.m. to 11:59 p.m.)  
- Complete Lab Exam #2 on Friday, November 1 (available from 12:01 a.m. to 11:59 p.m.) |

**Unit 3: Exogenous Forces**

| Week of November 4   | Module 1: Gravity and Aridity | - Read week's content  
- Complete Quiz #5 (over Unit 3, Module 1), by Friday, Nov 8, 11:59 p.m. (CST) |
| Week of November 11 | Module 2: Rivers | • Read week’s content  
• Complete Quiz #6 (over Unit 3, Module 2), by Friday, Nov 15 11:59 p.m. (CST) |
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<td>Week of November 18</td>
<td>Module 3: Groundwater</td>
<td>• Read week’s content</td>
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| Week of December 2 | Module 4: Glaciation and Shorelines FIELD PROJECT | • Read week’s content  
• Field Project due by Friday, Dec 6, 11:59 p.m. (CST)  
• Complete End-of-Semester Survey by Dec 6 (Other Resources in Navigation Bar, Surveys) |
| Week of December 9 | Unit 3 Review | • Complete Lecture Final Exam on Wednesday, December 11 available from 12:01 a.m. to 11:59 p.m.)  
• Complete Lab Exam #3 on Thursday, December 12 available from 12:01 a.m. to 11:59 p.m.) |

Dates may change at the discretion of the instructor. Should a date change be required, it will be announced on the course homepage or on the discussion board. Print the Semester Calendar and check it frequently to review daily/weekly assignments and to avoid missing deadlines.

Text and Materials

Optional: No textbook is required, but the following texts are excellent. I recommend that you purchase a text if your learning style benefits from having a textbook for reference, but there are no required textbook assignments. The textbook editions are all very similar.

  - current edition on reserve in Steen Library  
- *Physical Geology* by Leet, Judson, Kauffman, any edition  
- *Earth* by Tarbuck, Lutgens, & Tasa, any edition  
- *Putnam’s Geology* by Larson & Birkeland, any edition

Grading and Evaluation

Grades are determined from a variety of assignments:
- Examinations: 3 @100 points (300 points total)
- Quizzes: 5 highest out of 6 given @20 points (100 points total)

TOTAL = 400 pts

Grades will break down as follows:

A = 360-400
B = 320-359
C = 280-319
D = 240-279
F = 239 and below

The laboratory is a separate 1-hour credit, and lecture is a separate 3-hour credit. However, they are co-requisites (meaning the initial attempt requires simultaneous enrollment). You must pass both (≥ 60 average) to receive credit for a laboratory science. For example, if you have an 85 average in lecture, you would receive a B for completion of the 3-hour lecture portion. However, if you have a 55 average in lab, you would receive a F for non-completion of the required 1-hour lab. University requirements are that both (lab and lecture) be successfully completed. Check the requirements of your College to determine if you should repeat only the portion that was failed or both portions (lab and lecture).

To determine your lecture average, follow these instructions:

- **Current** lecture average
  - Get Started Quiz should **not** be included.
  - add **completed** quiz grade(s) and exam grade(s)
  - divide by number **completed**; for example:
    - if 3 quizzes (@20 pts) and 1 exam (@100 pts)
      - TOTAL = 160 points
      - divide by 1.6
    - if 4 quizzes (@20 pts) and 2 exams (@100 pts)
      - TOTAL = 280 points
      - divide by 2.8
  - etc

- **Final** lecture average
  - Get Started Quiz should **not** be included.
  - add 5 highest quiz grades and 3 exam grades
    - TOTAL = 400 points
    - divide by 4.

You must take the Get Started Quiz and Cheating & Plagiarism Quiz in the lecture content and the Get Started Quiz in the lab content by **August 30th at midnight**. These assessments do **not** count toward your average grade, but you will be unable to advance in either until you complete them.

On the weeks indicated on the Semester Calendar, a quiz is designed to test your knowledge of Module content. Quizzes typically contain ten objective questions and have a brief duration. As with the examinations, time limit is strictly enforced with a penalty of five points per extra minute taken. These quizzes can be completed in the time allotment if you are prepared, and you can view the correct quiz answers after completion.
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 unstable wireless connection (McDonalds, Starbucks, etc).

Examinations

These exams will consist of objective questions on the material covered in Units 1, 2, and 3 (respectively). There are 50 questions each on Exams #1 & #2, and you will be given 60 minutes to complete each exam. There are 100 questions on Exam #3, and you will be given 120 minutes to complete the exam. The exams are not cumulative, but they are timed. The penalty for taking more time than allotted is five points per minute, so be prepared when you begin the assessment. You will not have adequate time to refer back to Unit/Module content. Questions on lecture and lab quizzes/exams 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. However, you may return to any question and change your response within the prescribed time allotment. 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.

LabPaq Kit

Every student enrolled in this online course is required to purchase a LabPaq kit from HOL (Hands-On Labs). These kits are used to study physical properties of minerals/rocks and to aid in their identification; they are required for mineral/rock assessments. Order these kits now so that they will be available when you begin course content. Ordering information is also included in the lab portion of this course as well.

Hands-On Labs Student Ordering Instructions:

- Go To: [http://www.holscience.com](http://www.holscience.com)
- Click: "Order Here"
- Log In: C000732
- Password: labpaq
- Under GENERAL LAB SUPPLIES: Click on Geology
- Add to Cart these 2 items:
  - 10-0035-00-01 Rock Set, Variety (49 pcs)
  - 21-0145-00-01 Assy, Mineral Identification

Discussion Board

The Discussion Board (Course Tools in Navigation Bar) can be used as a place to exchange information amongst classmates. Please keep your comments on a professional level, and I will try to respond quickly when a question is asked. But remember, I have 150+ students taking online classes, and there is only one of me. If I miss your question in Discussions, email and give me a gentle reminder. I respond to a lot of email, so it takes a bit of time to answer all of them. Always, please let me know if you have any questions.

Access to Content
I give access to the week's content on that morning (12:01 a.m.) prior to when it is listed on the Semester Calendar. You are given your score on assessments immediately upon submission provided there are no Fill-In-The-Blank or Short Discussion questions. Time is 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 the day after assessments are taken. If you have issues accessing the exams or need to reschedule, please contact me ASAP.

In lab, Get Started information can be accessed immediately.

**Understanding D2L Email**

- D2L Email is not only secure, but spam-free as well. Keeping it secure and spam-free, though, requires keeping it a closed system.
- D2L Email is an internal (closed) system which means that you must log into D2L to read **and** to reply to messages.
- Users do have a "forward" option which will forward copies of messages to an external email account such as Gmail, Yahoo, mySFA, and others. HOWEVER, beware that . . .
  - users **may not reply** to a message from an external account. An example would be that Amy has her D2L Email forwarded to her Gmail account. She reads her messages from her Gmail account, and if she wishes to reply, she **must** enter D2L to reply to the message. If she attempts to reply to the D2L message from inside her Gmail account, the message will fail to send.
- D2L limits attachment size to 600kb due to server size limitations.
- Email questions should be sent to turnerwl@d2l.sfasu.edu.

**Home page**

Be sure and check (**and read!**) the Home Page frequently because announcements and information may be posted.

**Final Exam Exemption**

If your final semester average is \( \geq 93 \), you will be exempt from a final exam. You may be exempt from the lecture final exam and not the lab final exam (or vice versa). You must complete all of the assessments (in lecture and in lab - except for the **optional** Field Project) to be exempt. Check with the instructor before assuming exam exemption.

**University Policies**

- **Academic Integrity** - 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.
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.

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/.