Geology - Hill Country (Llano) Field Trip

INSTRUCTORS:
Dr. Ryan Anderson, Miller Science Room 305, Phone 936-468-2340; Ryan.Anderson@sfasu.edu
Dr. R. LaRell Nielson, Miller Science Room 304, Phone 936-468-2248; rnielson@sfasu.edu

READ THIS SYLLABUS! It contains important information about the logistics (schedule, supplies, lodging, meals, etc.) for our trip. This syllabus and other course materials are available on D2L.

DATES: October 10-13, 2019 (Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday)

Departure & Return: Loading will start Thursday, October 10, 2019 at 6:30 a.m. at the Lot 14 parking lot behind the library. If you have a commuter parking pass, you can park in the Wilson Parking Garage adjacent to Lot 14 and leave your car there for the duration of the field trip. If you do not wish to leave your car on campus, please make arrangements to be dropped off at Lot 14. We will leave Lot 14 promptly at 7:00 a.m. Thursday morning. We will return at approximately 10:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 13, 2019. If you miss the field trip, you will receive an “F” for the course.

Class Meeting: We will have an initial class meeting on Wed, September 11, 2019 to check roll, answer questions about the course, discuss field trip protocol, and talk about supplies and equipment you will need. This meeting will be held in Miller Science, Room 335 at 5:00 p.m.

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS: We will all travel in University vehicles rented for the trip. With 30 people, a caravan of cars would be impossible considering the narrow country roads we will be on. NO PRIVATE VEHICLES WILL BE ALLOWED. Luggage will be stored in the empty space behind the seats, so PLEASE BRING AS LITTLE LUGGAGE AS YOU CAN; SPACE IS VERY LIMITED!

LODGING: This is a CAMPING trip. We will spend Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights at Lady Bird Johnson RV Park in Fredericksburg (Phone 830-997-4202). The campground has showers but no soap, shampoo or towels. Please DO NOT use electric hair-dryers as they will blow out the fuse and leave everyone with no electricity in the showers! THERE IS NO OPTION FOR STAYING IN MOTELS; ALL STUDENTS MUST STAY IN THE CAMPGROUND.

FOOD COSTS: The travel fee you paid for the course will be used to pay for travel and camping. You will be responsible for the cost of your food. YOU WILL NEED SOME CASH FOR DRINKS, SNACKS, ETC. Our break stops will go MUCH faster if everyone uses cash rather than Debit/Credit cards – so bring enough CASH!! We recommend that you bring at least $100 cash. During the day we will eat at fast food restaurants, or those who wish may prepare something to bring along for lunch. One of the highlights of the trip is our ritual gathering for lunch on Friday at Cooper’s Barbeque in Llano. Most of us think it’s the best barbeque in the world. It’s also just a great Texas experience that’s hard to find anywhere else. For those who want to cook in camp after the end
of the field day, we have found the most economical arrangement to be the formation of “food groups” of three or four so that you can share the costs of food items that may be wasted if you buy only for yourself (such as whole loaves of bread, milk bottles, etc.). We don’t assign food groups; we’d rather that the students group together of their own accord. **The campground does not allow open fires and has no grills.** Camping stoves may be used on top of picnic benches that are in the campgrounds if you choose to bring them. Of course, it will be your choice as to whether you want to cook out at the campground or eat at restaurants.

**RESTAURANT POLICY**
This leads into our policy on eating in Fredericksburg, which has a number of good restaurants, including some excellent German and Mexican restaurants. Most of the restaurants are located on the main street in town (highway 87/290). For those who would like to dine out, which includes all the professors, we will take van loads to the restaurants each evening. **Vans going into town at night will be driven by faculty or authorized drivers only.**

**WE WILL PLAN TO RETURN TO THE CAMPGROUND AFTER EATING DINNER AT 9:00 P.M., IF POSSIBLE, BUT VANS WILL LEAVE TOWN NO LATER THAN 10:00 P.M. THOSE WHO MISS THE RETURN VAN RIDE AT 10:00 WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING THEIR OWN TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS BACK TO CAMP (AND FREDERICKSBURG MAY NOT HAVE TAXIS) AND WILL LOSE ONE LETTER GRADE ON THEIR FIELD NOTEBOOKS!**

**THINGS TO BRING ON THE FIELD TRIP:**

(All caps, bold, and underlined items absolutely important!; other underlined items also very important)

**NOTE:** All students must have a **spiral notebook** (like you use for classes) at the beginning of the trip. Note taking begins shortly after we depart Pecan Park. Stops at which you don’t have a notebook will receive zero credit.

***Make sure you have comfortable walking shoes on for the entire trip!! (This includes 7 am Thursday morning). Don’t wear sandals, flip-flops or anything else that would not be good for moderate hiking or climbing. NOTE: This is especially important on the second morning when we climb Enchanted Rock.***

**BRING THE FOLLOWING:** **SPIRAL NOTEBOOK, PENS/PENCILS,** tent, air mattress and electric pump (which makes sleeping on the ground much more comfortable), sleeping bag (and/or bedding), pillow, raincoat, clothing for 4 days, cooking utensils (if cooking), lanterns, can opener, matches, athletic shoes or hiking boots, warm clothing to layer on (**because it can be VERY cold on windy mornings in the country, especially if a storm blows in**), flashlight, personal items (toothbrush, soap, shampoo, etc.), towels, swimsuit, hand lens, marker pens (Sharpie, Marks-A-Lot) and specimen bags if you are collecting rocks; hat, suntan lotion, insect repellant, sunglasses, knife, watch. Please pack personal gear in backpack (without frame) or duffle bag (e.g. small zipper bag),
BUT NO suitcases (they take up too much room in the vans).

You may be able to rent camping gear from the Student Recreation Center. We suggest that you check well in advance if you are interested in this!

CAMPING RULES

CAMPSITES SHOULD BE LEFT CLEAN AND UNDAMAGED --- QUIET HOURS IN CAMPSITES ARE 10 P.M. TO 6 A.M.

"Quiet” Means Whispered Conversations Only. In An Open Camping Area, The Sound Of Ordinary Talking And Laughing Carries Across The Entire Campground And Goes Right Through Tents. After 11pm There Should Be No Conversations At All. Everyone Needs Their Sleep For The Strenuous Field Day Ahead!

BREAKFAST: VANS WILL LEAVE THE CAMPGROUND PROMPTLY AT 7:00AM FOR BREAKFAST AND WILL NOT RETRUN UNTIL THE END OF THE DAY. There are good breakfast choices in Fredericksburg and we will stop and eat before heading for the field at about 8 am.

ALCOHOL POLICY

UNIVERSITY RULES PROHIBIT USE OF ALCOHOL DURING ANY UNIVERSITY FUNCTION AND ALCOHOL CAN NOT BE TRANSPORTED IN UNIVERSITY VANS. ANYONE WHO GETS CAUGHT TRANSPORTING ALCOHOL IN A UNIVERSITY VAN WILL GET AN F FOR THE COURSE AND WILL HAVE TO RETURN IMMEDIATELY TO NACOGDOCHES AT THEIR OWN EXPENSE.

THE LOCAL POLICE WILL BE NOTIFIED BY CAMPGROUND MANAGERS IF ANY ALCOHOL-RELATED DISTURBANCES OCCUR. OFFENDING STUDENTS WILL BE REPORTED TO THE DEAN OF STUDENTS AND MAY BE ARRESTED BY THE LOCAL POLICE. BOTTOM LINE: THERE WILL BE ABSOLUTELY NO ALCOHOL IN THE CAMPGROUND. We regret the strict rules, but we have had problems with students and alcohol on prior field trips.

SAFETY

SOME SIMPLE PRECAUTIONS CAN HELP US HAVE A SAFE TRIP:
TO DEAL WITH INSECTS OR SNAKES:
  Wear long pants and tuck the ends into boots.
  Kick over rocks before collecting.
  Avoid areas of deep leaves.
  Snakes like to sun on ledges - Don't put your hands where you can't see.

IF YOU HAVE ALLERGIES TO BITES OR STINGS, OR ANY OTHER SPECIFIC
MEDICAL CONDITION, LET US KNOW ABOUT IT BEFORE WE LEAVE, IN WRITING. We need to be aware of this so that we can be prepared to head for the nearest emergency room if necessary.

ROCK HAMMER: NOT NECESSARY, BUT IF YOU BRING ONE, BE AWARE THAT quartz and other minerals shatter when hit; wear glasses of some sort and remember that the person next to you can get hit also. NEVER hit one hammer with another. Metal slivers are just as damaging to skin and eyes as are rock chips!

TRAFFIC: YOU must do your own watching. Highway traffic is fast. Roads are narrow.

COURSE CONTENT:

1. YOUR ENTIRE GRADE WILL BE BASED UPON YOUR FIELD NOTES. All of the field notes for this course will be completed during this one weekend trip. The only class meeting is the one before the trip.

2. All field notebooks will be turned in after the last stop on Sunday and will constitute the work upon which the final grade is based. Graded notebooks can be picked up by students during the week of finals in the main geology office.

3. During the field trip, we will drive around and look at “geology stuff”, that is, rocks, minerals, fossils, rivers, landforms and geologic structures such as faults and folds. We will ask questions such as, why is granite exposed in this part of Texas, why is that hill there, what do these dinosaur tracks tell us about life in the distant past? At each stop the professor will lecture about what you are seeing and try to make sure that everyone understands.

You will take notes on the geological features we see at each stop. This will usually be accompanied by a sketch of the site in general, and of special features at that place. The instructors will explain what you need to understand at each stop.

SAFETY NOTE: Some of our stops will be along the side of roads and highways. BE CAREFUL OF TRAFFIC -- you will not be on the SFA campus, so drivers will expect you to act like normal pedestrians.

4. Grades for the notebooks will be based on several aspects, including: neatness (if we can’t read it, we can’t grade it!), completeness of information, and, especially important, evidence in your notebooks that you UNDERSTOOD what you saw at the outcrops. Notebooks that contain only brief, skeleton descriptions or outlines of the geologic features seen, without explanations, sketches, and other indications that the material was really understood, will receive no higher than a C grade. Notebooks with substantial explanatory material and sketches will receive grades of B and A, depending upon the quality of the work. Notebooks in which geology stops are missing will be graded down accordingly.
VERY IMPORTANT: As mentioned early, you need to have a notebook accessible at the very beginning of the field trip because we start lecturing soon after leaving Pecan Park. DO NOT pack your notebook with your camping gear – keep it handy from the beginning.

------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

**Graded Field trip notebooks** may be picked up in the Geology Department office for one semester following the field trip and then will be discarded. You will receive an email at the end of the semester to come pick up your notebook.

**EXCUSE FOR MISSED CLASSES:** If you need an excuse for one or more classes that you will have to miss because of this trip, please come by the office (Science 301) well before the trip to pick them up and deliver it to the teacher of the class you will be missing.

This field trip will take you to some of the most beautiful and interesting places in Texas. You will have a guided tour by experts in geology and have many opportunities for fun and relaxation as well. We think that it is a great field trip and look forward to seeing you soon!

-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

===================================

**COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY POLICIES:**

===================================

**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), 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](http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices)
Course Description

Special Topics in Geology: Two semester hours. Study of specific areas in geology.

Course Code GOL 471.001.002.003

Course Objective
This course is designed as an intensive introductory course in field geology. Students will spend four days in the Llano Uplift region of central Texas learning about the unique geologic history of the area. Instructors will lead small groups and lecture at various locations, pointing out the geologic features of the area. While in the field, students will keep a notebook to record their observations and submit their notebook at the end of the trip.

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.

Student Learning Outcomes:
Upon completion of this course, the students will be able, at a minimum, to recognize, identify and illustrate understanding of the following topics:
1. the three classes of rocks and their relationship within the rock cycle
2. the theory of plate tectonics and how this theory relates to magma emplacement
3. the effects of weathering, erosion and climate on various rock types
4. the fossilized remains of various life forms found in the area and the environments in which they lived
5. the processes that produced the structural deformation and resulting topography in the area

Topics Covered:
1. Mineral Formation
2. Igneous Rocks
3. Weathering, Erosion, and Soil Development
4. Sedimentary Rocks and Depositional Environments
5. Metamorphic Rocks
6. Mass Movement
7. Stream Processes
8. Groundwater and Cave Formation
9. Geologic Time
10. Paleontology and the Preservations of Life Forms
11. Plate Tectonics
12. Mountain Building and Crustal Deformation