Name: Dr. Julie M. Bloxson  
Email: BloxsonJM@sfasu.edu  
Phone: (936) 468-2355  
Office: E.L. Miller Science Building, Rm 309  
Office Hours: MW 10:00 am – 12:00 pm; TTh 12:15 pm – 1:30 pm; By Apt. All office hours are by zoom, unless scheduling an apt.  
Department: Geology  

Course Description  
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. No prerequisites Three hours of lecture, plus two hours of laboratory per week (enrolled separately).  
Co-requisite: GOL 1103 (Note: you do need your lab book for the first day of lab).  

Text and Materials  
An Introduction to Geology, Johnson, Affolter, Inkenbrandt & Mosher, 2017. 2nd ed. Accessible at: https://opentextbc.ca/physicalgeology2ed/  
Account with Tophat. Accessible at: Tophat.com  
Cost: $30 for the semester.  
Join Code: 561344  

Modality  
This course is a hybrid course. You will be able to take this class fully remotely, if so desired. We are using Tophat as our platform, as it offers an interactive class feature where we can assess during class where we stand, and provide feedback. It is coupled with Slate, so we will be able to livestream the class during class time. I will run Screen-Cast-O’matic to record the lectures and post them to Tophat after class. You will need your phone or laptop to login during class, and answer questions. This will provide an attendance record, and also allow you to interact with the lecture.  
All tests will be conducted in Tophat. You will have one day to take each test. They day of the test will not change, but potentially the content will if we do not meet the expected pace. The tests will open at 4 am and be available until midnight that night. The tests are proctored.  
All quizzes and any potential assignments will be conducted online via Tophat.  
All in class questions will be extra credit, and will be the only means of extra credit. The questions are available during the presentation on Tophat, and can be answered when viewing the slides later as well.  
To meet the requirements of social distancing per state and university, the class will be split into two groups. Group A will be able to attend class on Tuesday, while group B will be required to remotely access the course via livestream on Tophat. On Thursday, Group B will attend and Group A will be required to access the course remotely.
Top Hat

We will be using Top Hat Pro (www.tophat.com) for class participation. You will be able to submit answers to in-class questions using Apple or Android smartphones and tablets, laptops, or through text message. For instructions on how to create a Top Hat account and enroll in our Top Hat Pro course, please refer to the invitation sent to your school email address or consult Top Hat's Getting Started Guide (https://bit.ly/31TGM1w).

If you already have a Top Hat account, go to https://app.tophat.com/e/561344 to be taken directly to our course. If you are new to Top Hat, go to https://app.tophat.com/register/student and search for our course with the following join code: 561344.

Slate

Slate is a free community platform that allows us to remotely communicate with everyone across our university, keeping our campus connected. We will be using Slate for course announcements, questions and activities throughout the course.

How to join Slate:
Before proceeding, make sure that you have created a Top Hat account and enrolled in our Top Hat course using the steps linked above.

• Step 1: Go to https://login.tophatblue.com/, click "Login in with Top Hat," and input your Top Hat account credentials
• Step 2: Check your school email for a message from Slate to verify your email address
• Step 3: Once directed back to Slate, input your real name in the username field when prompted
• Step 4: Locate our course channel in the left-side menu

Should you require assistance with Top Hat or Slate at any time please contact their Support Team directly by way of email (support@tophat.com), the in-app support button, or by calling 1-888-663-5491. Specific user information may be required by their technical support team when troubleshooting issues.

Course Requirements

Introductory Geology is an introduction to the study of the earth, including its natural resources, structure, and natural processes. Students will learn the impacts of geology on society such as earthquakes and volcanoes, and vice versa (anthropogenic effects), and touch on major theories in earth science such as plate tectonics. This course will have four exams (three 50-minute exams, plus a comprehensive final), and a weekly quiz on what has been covered in class. There is a co-requisite weekly lab which will provide hands-on experiences in earth science. You are expected to have read the material for the week outlined below, which will facilitate in content retention and aid in classroom discussions. I may also provide some supplemental material throughout the semester that is expected to be read before the designated class. These will consist of short pieces, typically news articles or scientific summaries that focus on a geologically related topic that affects society.

Each exam will be primarily multiple choice, with potentially a few short answer questions, and will cover the material from the previous exam (or start of classes for exam 1) through the date of the exam. The final exam will be comprehensive, covering all material from the semester.

Quizzes will cover the material covered in class for the week. They will be posted Thursday right after class, and be available until Monday at midnight. Use your notes and book during quizzes. They are meant to encourage attendance in class. Please check Tophat regularly, as that is where I post announcements and all grades.

There are several resources for help on campus, such as tutoring in the AARC, along with your TA’s in the lab can answer questions, and I am almost always available (and most definitely willing) to help. I have set office hours, but
can also be available by appointment, and email (note I most likely won’t answer an email after 10 pm or so). We are here to help you succeed, while also helping you learn a bit about the world you inhabit.

Please limit food in the classroom, phone calls (silence phones), texting, and other distracting behaviors. If you need to leave, please do so quietly. If you know you need to leave class early, please sit near the edge of the row and excuse yourself quietly.

COVID-19 MASK POLICY Masks (cloth face coverings) must be worn over the nose and mouth at all times in this class and appropriate physical distancing must be observed. Students not wearing a mask and/or not observing appropriate physical distancing will be asked to leave the class. All incidents of not wearing a mask and/or not observing appropriate physical distancing will be reported to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities. Students who are reported for multiple infractions of not wearing a mask and/or not observing appropriate physical distancing may be subject to disciplinary actions.


Grading Policy
Your final lecture grade will be 20% quiz grades and 80% exam grades. The lab grade is entirely separate from the lecture grade, and you will receive a separate grade at the end of the semester. I post all grades on Tophat. If there is a discrepancy in your grade, please let me know.

Your quiz score will be scaled to be out of 100 points. It will consist of weekly online quizzes administered through Tophat. The quiz will be posted every Thursday after class, and will be open until the following Monday at midnight. This gives you five days to complete the quiz. Each quiz will be a review of the week’s lectures. Please use your book and notes during these online quizzes.

There will be three online exams throughout the semester, and a final comprehensive exam during finals week, each worth 100 pts. Typically, if you do well on the quizzes, you should do well on the comprehensive final, and the exams along the way.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quizzes (~10 total)</th>
<th>100 points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Each exam 100 pt each</td>
<td>400 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total (lecture) your total points/400 points*100= class%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

100-90% A
89-80% B
79-70% C
69-60% D
59-0% F

You will receive a separate lab grade given by your lab instructor.
Course Calendar
Topics try to coincide with the laboratory topics covered, up until the last third of the semester. We will try to stay on scheduled topic, although exam dates will be firm. Topics are subject to change.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week (date)</th>
<th>Chapter Covered</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Important Dates</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>wk 1 – Aug 24</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
<td>Introduction to Geology/Earth in Context</td>
<td>Aug 27 - last day to register</td>
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<tr>
<td>wk 2 – Aug 31</td>
<td>Chapter 2</td>
<td>Minerals</td>
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<tr>
<td>wk 3 – Sept 7</td>
<td>Chapter 3, 4</td>
<td>Intrusive Igneous Rocks, Volcanism</td>
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<td>wk 4 – Sept 14</td>
<td>Chapter 5</td>
<td>Weathering, Soil</td>
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<tr>
<td>wk 5 – Sept 21</td>
<td>Chapter 6</td>
<td>Sediments and Sedimentary Rocks</td>
<td>Exam 1 Thursday</td>
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<tr>
<td>wk 6 – Sept 28</td>
<td>Chapter 7, 9</td>
<td>Metamorphism and Metamorphic Rocks, Earth’s Interior</td>
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<td>wk 7 – Oct 5</td>
<td>Chapter 10</td>
<td>Plate Tectonics</td>
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<tr>
<td>wk 8 – Oct 12</td>
<td>Chapter 11</td>
<td>Earthquakes</td>
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<tr>
<td>wk 9 – Oct 19</td>
<td>Chapter 12</td>
<td>Geological Structures</td>
<td>Oct 21 – last day to drop Exam 2 Thursday</td>
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<tr>
<td>wk 10 – Oct 26</td>
<td>Chapter 13</td>
<td>Streams and Floods</td>
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<td>wk 11 – Nov 2</td>
<td>Chapter 14</td>
<td>Groundwater</td>
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<tr>
<td>wk 12 – Nov 9</td>
<td>Chapter 16</td>
<td>Glaciation</td>
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<tr>
<td>wk 13 – Nov 16</td>
<td>Chapter 17</td>
<td>Shorelines</td>
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<td>wk 14 – Nov 23</td>
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<td>Thanksgiving Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>wk 15 – Nov 30</td>
<td>Chapter 20</td>
<td>Geological Resources</td>
<td>Exam 3 Thursday</td>
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<tr>
<td>wk 16 – Dec 14</td>
<td></td>
<td>Final – Thursday, Dec 10 All Day Online</td>
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*Note: we will try to stick to this schedule, but topics for a given week may change based upon the pace of the previous week. Topics will be covered in this order.

Program Learning Outcomes
There are no specific program learning outcomes for this major addressed in this course, as it is a general education core curriculum course and/or a service course.

Student Learning Outcomes
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 oral, visual and written formats.
SLO 5. Demonstrate an understanding of the skills and attitudes necessary for effective teamwork in collaborative learning activities.
General Education Core Curriculum
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 Fundamentals of Earth Science you are also enrolling in a Core Curriculum Course that fulfills the Natural Sciences requirement. You will see this course on your D2L list.

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)
CO 2. Communication Skills – effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral 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)

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.

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/. 