Instructors: Dr. Liane Stevens and Dr. Julie Bloxson
Department: Geology
Emails: stevenslm@sfasu.edu; bloxsonjm@sfasu.edu
Office Phones: Stevens: 936-468-2024; Bloxson: 936-468-2355
Zoom Office Hours: Stevens: MW 1:00-2:00 p.m., or by appointment.
Bloxson: MW 10:00 am – 12:00 pm, TR 12:15 pm – 1:30 pm, or by appointment.
See Brightspace for Zoom links and passwords.

Course Modality: This is an online (asynchronous) course. All coursework will be done through Brightspace. There are no face-to-face or livestream class meetings. This 8-week course is conducted during the second half of the Fall 2020 semester, specifically between the dates of October 15 and November 20. You will complete this course in a maximum of 5 weeks.

Course Overview: Arkansas Field Trip (GEOL 4171-642) – Two semester hours. Learn about the geologic history and resources (fossil fuels, minerals, water) of East Texas and Arkansas by virtually visiting significant geologic sites (outcrops, mines, factories, etc.) across the region. No prerequisites.

Course Materials:
- This course requires access to a computer (or similar device) with an internet connection in order to view and complete course modules on Brightspace and other internet sites.

Program Learning Outcomes:
- PLO 1. Demonstrate knowledge of fundamental geoscience concepts. (Concepts)
- PLO 2. Execute geoscience procedures and methods accurately, appropriately, and safely. (Geoscience Skills)
- PLO 3. Demonstrate proficiency in interpretation and communication of geoscience information. (Scientific Communication)
- PLO 4. Apply concepts, skills, and scientific communication to identify, analyze, and interpret geoscience phenomena. (Research)

Student Learning Outcomes: After successful completion of this course, students will be able to:
- SLO 1. Describe the geologic history and Earth resources of the East Texas-Hot Springs region. (PLO 1)
- SLO 2. Describe the processes involved in the development of various Earth resources. (PLO 1)
- SLO 3. Identify the mining techniques used for the recovery of various Earth resources. (PLO 1)
- SLO 4. Connect various Earth resources to industrial uses and societal needs. (PLO 1)
- SLO 5. Reflect on the significance of understanding course content for the benefit of society. (PLO 1)
**Course Format:** This course features virtual visits to outstanding and well-loved geologic sites across East Texas and the Hot Springs-Little Rock region of Arkansas to improve understanding of the fundamental themes of geology (rocks, minerals, regional history, fossil fuel resources, water resources, ores and mining, etc.) The course is structured into weekly Brightspace modules that start on Thursday mornings and end on Wednesday nights. Each module will include background reading, virtual visits to relevant field trip spots, activities (videos, discussions, etc.), and a quiz. There are firm deadlines for each module, but you are welcome to advance through the course more rapidly. Your progress during the course will be assessed through weekly module activities, weekly module quizzes, a comprehensive final exam, and a course reflection.

**Workload:** A unit of credit is the semester hour, defined as one class meeting per week (or its equivalent) for one 15-week semester. For each semester hour, you are expected to spend at least 2 hours per week in preparation and study. To complete this 2-credit course within 5 weeks, you will spend 6 hours per week working through modules, plus additional time for reading and studying.

**Brightspace (D2L):** All modules, additional course content, and useful resources will be posted in the Brightspace learning environment, which you can access through mySFA. It is your responsibility to log in regularly to complete modules and get course news. Grades will be posted on Brightspace. Please contact us directly at stevenslm@sfasu.edu or bloxsonjm@sfasu.edu; do not email us through Brightspace. For technical assistance with Brightspace, please contact 936-468-1919 or d2l@sfasu.edu.

**Weekly Modules:** Weekly modules present critical course concepts, virtual field trip stops, activities, and a quiz. You will work individually and at your own pace, but you must complete each module by 11:59 p.m. Monday on its due date. It is your responsibility to complete the weekly modules in a timely manner. As you complete each module, the next module will become available. This will allow you to advance through modules more rapidly than the scheduled two modules per week, if you choose. You will likely have questions or encounter problems as you work, so do not hesitate to ask questions by email, drop into office hours, or post questions on the class FAQ.

**Final Exam & Course Reflection:** The final exam will test course concepts from your weekly modules (module material and activities, readings, etc.), and will include a variety of question formats (e.g., multiple choice, multiple answer, matching, fill-in-the-blank, ordering, etc.). The final exam covers materials from all course modules. You will also complete a course reflection. More information on both assignments will follow.

**Zoom:** We will use Zoom this semester for office hours. As an SFA student, you already have an account; there is no need to create your own. To attend office hours, click on the Office Hours link in Brightspace. If you are prompted to log in, use the SSO log in button (don’t just type in your email and password). When prompted, give “sfasu” as your domain. You should be transferred to an SFA page where you can log in with your mySFA username and password. For technical assistance with Zoom, please contact the Help Desk at 936-468-4357 or helpdesk@sfasu.edu.

**Course Schedule:** The course calendar at the end of this syllabus outlines the schedule of modules for the term. Note that all work within a module must be completed by 11:59 p.m. on the Wednesday night at the end of the module week. You are welcome to work through the modules more rapidly. We reserve the right to modify the schedule as needed, and will notify you accordingly.
Late Work: If you are having difficulty completing an assignment on time, please contact us at least 12 hours before the due date about alternative arrangements. Otherwise, a 5% per school day penalty (to a maximum loss of 50%) will apply to all assignments.

Final Grades: Your final grade is determined by summing the weighted averages of your grades in each of the categories below. Letter grades will be assigned as follows: A (90.0–100), B (80.0–89.9), C (70.0–79.9), D (60.0–69.9), F (< 60.0).

- Module Activities 40%
- Modules Quizzes 30%
- Final Exam 20%
- Course Reflection 10%

Extra Credit: There are no extra credit assignments – focus your attention on the tasks at hand.

Office Hours: Office hours are the times when we guarantee our availability to you. This semester we will hold virtual office hours through Zoom (times listed at the top of this syllabus). See Brightspace for meeting links and passwords. Office hours are open to all students. Office hours are a good time to discuss course topics, ask questions, discuss your course progress, and talk about ways to improve your understanding. Feel free to email either of us to make an appointment for a different time, if needed.

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), Room 325, Human Services Building, 936-468-3004/1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify me and outline the accommodations 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. Please get in touch with us at the beginning of the semester to discuss arrangements for accommodations.

COVID-19 Mask Policy: While we won’t be meeting face-to-face this semester, you may be in other courses or here in the department. Masks (cloth face coverings) must be worn over the nose and mouth at all times, and appropriate physical distancing must be observed. 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 may be subject to disciplinary actions. Wash your hands and use sanitizer!

Academic Integrity: Academic integrity is the 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. Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials on any class assignment or exam; (2) falsifying or inventing of any information, including citations, on assignment; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help other student(s) 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 include (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one’s own work when it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from the Internet or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one’s paper without giving the author due credit. Policy 4.1: http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp. You are encouraged to ask questions about completing your coursework with academic integrity.
**Withheld Grades**: At our discretion and with the approval of the chair of the department, a grade of WH will be assigned only if you cannot complete the course work because of *unavoidable circumstances*. You must complete the work by the agreed upon deadline that we set, which is not to exceed one calendar year from the end of the semester in which you receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F, except as allowed through policy [i.e., Active Military Service (6.14)]. If you register for the same course in future semesters, the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

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**Course Schedule – GOL 4171-642 – Arkansas Virtual Field Trip – Fall 2020**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Modules</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Starts</strong>:&lt;br&gt;Thurs., Oct. 15, 8:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Module 1: Getting Started</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td><strong>Due</strong>:&lt;br&gt;Wed., Oct. 21, 11:59 p.m.</td>
<td>Module 2: About Geology</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Starts</strong>:&lt;br&gt;Thurs., Oct. 22, 8:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Module 3: Regional Geology&lt;br&gt;(Field Trip Stops: Blakely Dam, Hot Springs Tower...)&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;Module 4: Rocks &amp; Minerals&lt;br&gt;(Field Trip Stops: Granite Mountain Quarry, Magnet Cove, Quartz Mine, Arkansas Geological Survey...)&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;Module 5: Mining Practices&lt;br&gt;(Field Trip Stops: Coal Mine, Granite Mountain Quarry, Bauxite Mine, Magnet Cove, Barite Mine, Quartz Mine...)&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;Module 6: Ores &amp; Mineral Resources&lt;br&gt;(Field Trip Stops: Meridian Brick Factory, Granite Mountain Quarry, Bauxite Mine, Barite Mine, Arkansas Novaculite; Quartz Mine, Crater of Diamonds State Park...)&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;Module 7: Water Resources&lt;br&gt;(Field Trip Stops: Blakely Dam, Hydrothermal Springs/Hot Springs, Arkansas River Lock &amp; Dam...)&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;Module 8: Fossil Fuels – Coal&lt;br&gt;(Field Trip Stops: Henderson Coal Seams, Sabine Mine...)&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;Module 9: Fossil Fuels – Petroleum&lt;br&gt;(Field Trip Stops: Arkansas Museum of Natural Resources...)&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;Module 10: Final Exam &amp; Course Reflection</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td><strong>Due</strong>:&lt;br&gt;Wed., Oct. 28, 11:59 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Due</strong>:&lt;br&gt;Wed., Nov. 4, 11:59 p.m.</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td><strong>Starts</strong>:&lt;br&gt;Thurs., Oct. 29, 8:00 a.m.</td>
<td><strong>Due</strong>:&lt;br&gt;Wed., Nov. 11, 11:59 p.m.</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td><strong>Due</strong>:&lt;br&gt;Fri., Nov. 20, 11:59 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Due</strong>:&lt;br&gt;Fri., Nov. 20, 11:59 p.m.</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td><strong>Due</strong>:&lt;br&gt;Fri., Nov. 20, 11:59 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Due</strong>:&lt;br&gt;Fri., Nov. 20, 11:59 p.m.</td>
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Deadlines are firm, but you may choose to work ahead.