**GOL 471.001 – Hill Country Field Trip – Spring 2020**

**College of Sciences & Mathematics – Stephen F. Austin State University**

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**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.

**Field Trip:** April 2-5, 2020 (Thursday-Sunday), Texas Hill Country, Fredericksburg and Llano areas

**Class Meeting:** We will have an initial class meeting on Monday, February 17, 2020 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 in Miller Science, Room 333 at 5:00-6:00 p.m.

**Course Overview:** Two credit hours for a weekend of camping and exploring the geology of the beautiful Texas Hill Country. This area has a great diversity of rock types, fossils, and landforms. We will visit Enchanted Rock State Park and enjoy great barbecue. We will drive around the Hill Country to do “geology stuff” – see rocks, minerals, landforms, geologic structures, and more. At each stop, we will talk about the geology, complete field-based lab activities, and help everyone to understand what we are seeing. After the trip, you will create a Field Report slide presentation describing what you saw and learned.

**Course Schedule:** We will have an initial class meeting and orientation on Monday, February 17 (see above). The field trip will take place Thursday, April 2 through Sunday, April 5, 2020. Final field reports will be due on Wednesday, April 15, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. There will be no class meetings after we return.

**Field Work:** During the field trip, you will take notes, complete the course packet (to be provided) as directed, photograph field trip stops and samples, and participate in other course activities. For this work, you will need a clipboard (or other writing surface), pencil, eraser, pencil sharpener (if necessary), and a digital camera or smartphone (with charger or spare batteries).

**Field Report:** After completion of the field trip you will create a Field Report, which will take the form of a set of PowerPoint slides. For each field trip stop you will create two slides: 1) A slide with a photograph of the stop (Geology, not people!) and a brief description of the geology of the location, and 2) A slide describing the timing of the geologic processes that occurred in that location. You’ll find more detailed information about the Field Report in the PowerPoint template, example slides, and grading rubric available on D2L. You will submit your field report no later than 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 15, 2020 by uploading it to the Brightspace/D2L dropbox.
Grades will be based on 1) accuracy and completeness of information, and 2) evidence that you UNDERSTOOD what you saw at each stop on the trip.

**Attendance:** There will be no classroom meetings after the first information meeting. If you miss the field trip, you will receive an F for the course.

**Late Policy:** A 10% per day penalty will apply to any late field report, including Field Reports that must be resubmitted due to incorrect file formatting.

**Final Grade:** Your final grade is based **entirely** on your final Field Report. Field Reports will be graded by the final week of the semester. You will receive a completed rubric with grades and comments when we have finished grading all of the reports. 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).

**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, 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 accommodations and/or 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/). Please be in touch with us at the beginning of the semester to discuss arrangements for accommodations.

**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. 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). You are encouraged to ask questions and seek clarification about completing your coursework with academic integrity.

**Withheld Grades:** 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.
Field Trip Logistics

Departure & Return: Loading will start Thursday, April 2, 2020, 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, April 5, 2020. If you miss the field trip, you will receive an F for the course.

Materials & Supplies: This is a camping trip, and you will need clothing and supplies to protect yourself from the elements. Wear all-weather, multilayered clothes and comfortable walking shoes. Moderate sized (2-4 person) dome tents with rain flies hold up best to rain, wind, and cold. Very large tents take up lots of space and can be difficult to set up and keep up in extreme conditions. You may be able to rent camping gear from Campus Recreation. Check well in advance if you are interested in this (936-468-6055; http://www.sfasu.edu/campusrec/217.asp).

Camping Supplies:
- Tent with rain fly
- Ground tarp (for under tent)
- Sleeping bag / bedding
- Cot or air mattress (plus pump)
- Pillow
- Flashlight/Lantern/Headlamp
- Camp chair (optional)

Personal Supplies:
- Layered clothing
- Rain coat or poncho
- Sneakers or sturdy shoes
- Water shoes (optional)
- Bathing suit (optional)
- Hat, sunglasses, sunscreen
- Personal toiletries, towel
- Insect repellant
- Money for meals, snacks, drinks
- Phone charging equipment (car chargers work best)
- Water bottle
- Non-perishable snacks (no coolers)

Field Supplies:
- Back pack
- Camera, smart phone, disposable camera, chargers/batteries
- Pencils, erasers, sharpeners
- Clip board / writing surface
- Baggies (for samples)
- Geologic hammer (optional)
- Hand lens (optional)

Accommodations: All trip participants must stay at the designated campsites and adhere to Park rules. Campsites must be kept and left clean, and park quiet hours must be observed. We will stay at Lady Bird Johnson RV Park in Fredericksburg. The campground has showers. Do NOT use hair dryers in the bathrooms – they will blow out the fuses.
**Safety:** Please be careful when visiting outcrops, hammering on rocks, and moving in uneven terrain. Watch for traffic and vehicles on the roads. Wear appropriate clothing – typically long pants and closed-toed shoes for walking and hiking, as well as layers for the weather. Keep plenty of water with you, and protect yourself from the sun. Take precautions to deal with insects or snakes – kick over rocks before collecting; avoid areas of deep leaves; snakes like to sun on ledges – pay attention to where you put your hands. If you have allergies to bites or stings, or specific medical conditions we should be aware of, please let us know in writing so that we are prepared for emergencies.

**Travel:** We will travel in SFA vans rented from the University for this trip. Private vehicles are not allowed. There will be about eight passengers per vehicle, plus luggage and gear, plus some personal rocks when returning. Choose your van and with whom you like to travel. Sit in a seat with your seatbelt on. Do not load higher than the back seat. Rocks and personal bags will go on the rear floor and underneath the seats. Department graduate students will be the drivers; please follow their instructions for a safe trip.

**Food:** We will stop for supplies, snacks, and drinks each morning. Breakfast and lunch will be brief stops in an eatery, fast food, or other restaurant. In the evening, restaurants will be visited as mini groups before a late return to camp. Because of our busy schedules meals will not be prepared at camp.

**Budget:** Budget wisely for 12 meals and assorted snacks and supplies on the road. We will do our best to provide you with reasonable and economical food options, but dining out can add up quickly and our options will sometimes be limited. You may wish to pack easy, non-perishable snacks (granola or protein bars, crackers, trail mix, etc.) to minimize your purchases. Dinner on Friday will be a stop at the well-known (but potentially pricey) Cooper’s BBQ, a great Texas experience.

**ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES/CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES (Tobacco included):** University and Texas State laws will be observed that either prohibit their use as such or during any university function. Specifically: There will be no consumption in the vans or consumption during the daytime work hours. Dinner time is private time, and if you are of age you may enjoy the beverage of your choice with dinner. A non-smoking policy will be in effect during the daytime trips.

University rules prohibit the use of alcohol during any University function and alcohol cannot be transported in University vans. 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: absolutely no alcohol in the campground.

If you are found to have alcohol in the University vans or at the campground, you will be expelled from the course, receive an “F” and will be sent home at your own expense.
Field Trip Schedule & Course Topics*

**Thursday, April 2, 2020**
- Depart Lot 14 by 7:00 a.m., Nacogdoches, TX
- Breakfast in Crockett, TX
- Trinity River (*stream processes, flooding, depositional environments, water resources, geologic time*)
- Lunch in Taylor, TX
- Blackland Prairie (*climate, weathering, physiography*)
- San Gabriel River (*sedimentary processes, stream processes, springs, paleontology, stratigraphy, geologic time*)
- Llano Uplift overlook (*sedimentary processes, paleontology, plate tectonics, mountain building, crustal deformation, geologic time*)
- Setting up camp, Lady Bird Johnson Park, Fredericksburg, TX
- Dinner in Fredericksburg, TX

**Friday, April 3, 2020**
- Depart Campground by 8:00 a.m.
- Breakfast in Fredericksburg, TX
- Enchanted Rock State Park (*minerals, rock cycle, igneous rocks, metamorphic rocks, mass movement, weathering, topography, plate tectonics, mountain building, crustal deformation, geologic time*)
- Lunch at Enchanted Rock State Park
- Hickory Sandstone (*sedimentary processes, sedimentary structures*)
- Gypsum Quarry (*sedimentary processes, sedimentary environments, paleontology, geologic resources*)
- Great Unconformity (*geologic time, unconformities, igneous and sedimentary processes*)
- Dinner at Cooper’s Barbecue, Llano, TX
- Camping, Lady Bird Johnson Park

**Saturday, April 4, 2020**
- Depart Campground by 8:00 a.m.
- Breakfast in Fredericksburg, TX
- Llano River Bridge (*crustal deformation, geologic time*)
- Llanite Dike (*minerals, igneous rocks, geologic time*)
- Low Water Crossing, Llano River (*igneous processes, weathering and erosion, geologic time*)
- Lunch in Kingsland, TX
- Hoover Point (*crustal deformation, geologic time*)
- Longhorn Caverns (*groundwater, cave formation*)
- Inks Lake (*igneous rocks, metamorphic rocks, crustal deformation*) – swimming optional, time/weather permitting
- Dinner in Fredericksburg, TX
- Camping, Lady Bird Johnson Park

**Sunday, April 5, 2020**
- Pack tents and depart Campground by 8:00 a.m.
- Breakfast in Fredericksburg, TX
- Pedernales Falls State Park (*paleontology, sedimentary environments, weathering and erosion, geologic time, crustal deformation, stream processes, water resources*)
- Return to Nacogdoches, lunch en route

*Schedule is tentative and subject to change due to timing, weather, etc.*