CoSM Class Syllabus / Policy

2021 / Summer 1

GEOL 5175

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Office Hours: This is an online course and office hours will be offered electronically. In office hours are are available through scheduling upon request.

This course is online, please refer to the detailed calendar found as a webpage in this module.

Text and Materials:

- No specific texts are required for this course due to the nature of the topics covered. However, each module will have suggested reading that should be completed in conjunction with that specific module.

Course Description: Hydrologic Geohazards (GEOL 5175) – Three semester hours, three hours lecture per week. Characterization of natural and anthropogenically-enhanced hazards associated with hydrogeologic phenomena. Specific focus on occurrences within Texas, including landslides, earthquakes, coastal erosion, flooding, karst and aquifer management.

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 objective of GEOL 5175 is to gain an understanding of the characterization, delineation and potential mitigation of hydrologic geohazards in the State of Texas. Throughout this course, general theory of hydrologic geohazards will be coupled with qualitative analyses of phenomena in Texas in order to gain an understanding the effects of anthropogenic modifications to natural processes. Critical analyses skills will be developed through evaluated case studies and discussion of geologic hazard mitigation alternatives.
Student Learning Outcomes:

The student is expected to understand and apply the following concepts of hydrologic geohazards:

1. Utilize fundamentals of geology to characterize natural processes that create hydrologic geohazards.
2. Characterize the influence of anthropogenic activities on hydrologic geohazards.
3. Identify the mechanisms that promote hydrologic geohazards in Texas.
4. Delineate the spatial distribution of hydrologic geohazards in Texas.
5. Characterize complex geologic hazard phenomena in order to develop mitigation proposals.

Course Requirements: Hydrologic Geohazards (GEOL 5175) is designed to provide a qualitative assessment of hydrologic geohazards with emphasis on occurrences in the State of Texas. This course includes a comprehensive final exam, module content quizzes, module reviews of scientific papers, module independent study activities, and a term project. Student learning in the lecture section will be evaluated through a comprehensive final examination. See Course Calendar for scheduling details. See section on Grading Policy below.

Time: Remember, you are expected to spend the same amount of time on online courses that you would spend for in the classroom for face-to-face courses. That is, expect to spend three hours per week on the lecture portion. In addition, success in this course will also require additional time spent in the material and studying; reports indicate that two to three additional hours (per credit hour) be spent—indepedent of whether the class is online or face-to-face. Many of you are choosing to take an online course because of your work schedule, family responsibilities, and scheduling conflicts, so your time is precious. Be aware of the time commitment required by this course and work responsibly.

Course Topics to be covered: *

- Geohazards
- Hydrogeology Fundamentals
- Soil Hydro-Geohazards
- Slope Failure Hydro-Geohazards
- Atmospheric Hydro-Geohazards
- Continental Flooding Hydro-Geohazards
- Coastal Hydro-Geohazards
- Karst Hydro-Geohazards
- Aquifer Degradation

*See the Course Calendar webpage for the dates associated with each topic.

Credit Hour Justification: Hydrologic Geohazards meets for a minimum of 37.5 lecture contact hours during the semester. Students are required to complete assignments based on readings from the primary literature, participate in discussions regarding research topics, and complete periodic
quizzes and exams over the course content, including a final exam. Students must also complete written assignments that assess their ability to evaluate current research in geoscience, including experimental procedures, and data analyses and interpretation. Successful completion of all elements for the course requires at least 75 hours of out-of-class student work for the semester.

**Access to Content:** I will provide access to the content at the beginning of the course enabling you to work ahead at your own pace. However, each module will have specific completion dates as assessed through module quizzes and DropBox submitted assignments as listed on the [Course Calendar](#). Some of you have very tight schedules and/or limited internet connectivity and could benefit from an early start. Answers to quiz and exam questions will be available once every classmate has submitted their assessment. Quizzes and module content will be available until the day and time listed on the Course Calendar, but module content *cannot be viewed the day of the final exam*. So, plan appropriately!

**Major Examination Schedule:**

- Comprehensive Final Exam (Module 12): see Course Schedule

Exam and quizzes will be comprehensive and may include any or all of the following sections: 1) multiple choice questions; 2) true / false questions; 3) fill in the blank questions; 4) short answer questions; 5) figure illustration; 6) short essay questions. **All quizzes and the Comprehensive Final Exam will take place online and be delivered via Brightspace.** The exams will cover questions from content modules as well as any assigned reading activities and outside sources (videos, webpages) referred to in the content material. Essay questions are part of the test and I expect you to use complete sentences, correct grammar and spelling.

The exam/quizzes are cumulative and timed, therefore you will not have adequate time to refer back to Unit/Module content for answers during the exam/quizzes. Questions on the exam and quizzes are written by the instructor, and the assessment content has been presented in the online content. Brightspace randomly selects questions from a question bank, and they appear one question at a time. You may not return to any question and change your answer after leaving that page so be sure of your response (study ahead of time!) before answering. 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. Once the time allotment for the exam has expired, the exam will be ended and scored.

No outside work or extra credit will be assigned to help improve your grade, so be prepared for the quizzes and the final exam. It is imperative that you log on and participate in all course material, pay attention to the course calendar, and keep up with the due dates for quizzes, discussions, and exams. In other words – get your money’s worth!

**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 public wireless connection (e.g. McDonalds, Starbucks, etc.).
**Discussion Board:** The Discussion Board can be used as a place to exchange information between the instructor and classmates. There will be a general "Questions" post where students can ask questions regarding the course content. This is helpful to all, and I will respond to questions as quickly as possible. I always appreciate questions, and am happy to try to help. Please keep your discourse respectful to all, inappropriate comments will not be tolerated.

**Lecture Grading Policy:**

- Nine module quizzes @ 10 points each = 90 points
- Nine paper discussion @ 5 points each = 45 points
- Nine activity assignments @ 10 points each = 90 points
- Term Project @ 75 points
- Final Comprehensive Exam @ 100 points = 100 points
- Total possible points = 400 points
- Lecture grade = your total points / 400, then multiply by 100
  
  *Example: your lecture point total 326 / 400 = 0.815 x 100 = 82*

**Grade Scale:** 90-100 + A, 80-89 + B, 70-79 + C, 60-69 + D, < 60 = F

**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.

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**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 Academic Dishonesty.

**Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy 5.5)**

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. For additional information, go to Withheld Policy.

**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 Disability Services.

SFASU values students' mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. SF A provides a variety of resources to support student's mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.

On-campus Resources:

**SFASU Counseling Services**

3rd Floor Rusk Building

936-468-2401

**SFASU Human Services Counseling Clinic**

Human Services Room 202

936-468-1041

Crisis Resources:

Burke 24-hour crisis line 1(800) 392-8343

Suicide Prevention Lifeline 1(800) 273-TALK (8255)

Crisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741