Instructor: Dr. Mike Read  
Email: michael.read@sfasu.edu  
Phone: 936-468-2095  
Office: Miller Science Building, Room 303  
Office Hours: Tuesday: 9:00 am-11:00 am; Wednesday: 11:00 am-Noon; Thursday: 9:00 am-11:00 am  
Department: Earth Sciences & Geologic Resources

Course Materials: There is no textbook associated with this course. All lecture materials will be provided via D2L.

Course Description: 4 semester hours. 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. Required lab fee.

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 student is expected to develop the following core objectives established by the THECB.  
CO 1. Critical Thinking Skills – creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information. (SLO 1-4)  
CO 2. Communication Skills – effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written 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)

Student Learning Outcomes for Lecture & Lab: 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. (Critical Thinking, Empirical and Quantitative Skills)  
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. (Critical Thinking, Empirical and Quantitative Skills)  
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. (Critical Thinking, Teamwork)  
SLO 4. Critically assess the interrelationships between geologic phenomena and communicate the resulting conclusions in visual and written formats. (Critical Thinking, Communication, Empirical and Quantitative Skills, Teamwork)
SLO 5. Demonstrate an understanding of the skills and attitudes necessary for effective teamwork in collaborative learning activities. (Communication, Teamwork)

The U.S. Department of Education Definition of the Credit Hour: A credit hour is an amount of work represented in intended learning outcomes and verified by evidence of student achievement that is an institutionally established equivalency that reasonably approximates not less than one hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours out of class student work each week for approximately fifteen weeks for one semester of credit. This class is a 3-credit hour course and has a weekly requisite lab where students will gain hands-on experience with earth materials, gathering and analyzing data, communicating their findings and working as a team to explain scientific processes.

Course Time: Remember, you are expected to spend the same amount of time on online courses that you would spend for F2F (face to face) courses. That is, expect to spend three hours per day on the lecture portion and two hours per day on the laboratory portion. In addition, reports for success indicate that two to three additional hours (per credit hour) be spent—-independent of whether the class is online or F2F. In other words, 16 hours/week should be spent on lecture content and 16 hours should be spent on lab content. Many of you are working, have families, or taking other classes, so your time is limited. I have experienced the same, so I understand your position.

Grading Breakdown & Policy:
Examinations: 3 @100 points (300 points total)
Quizzes: 5 highest out of 6 given @20 points (100 points total)
Discussions: 5 @ 5 points (25 points total)
TOTAL = 425 pts
Grades will break down as follows:

A = 381-425
B = 338-381
C = 297-338
D = 253-297
F = 253 and below

The laboratory is a separate 1-hour credit, and lecture is a separate 3-hour credit. However, they are co-requisites (meaning the initial attempt requires simultaneous enrollment). You must pass both (> 60 average) to receive credit for a laboratory science. For example, if you have an 85 average in lecture, you would receive a B for completion of the 3-hour lecture portion. However, if you have a 55 average in lab, you would receive a F for non-completion of the required 1-hour lab. University requirements are that both (lab and lecture) be successfully completed. Check the requirements of your College to determine if you should repeat only the portion that was failed or both portions (lab and lecture).

You must take the Get Started Quiz and Cheating & Plagiarism Quiz in the lecture content and the Get Started Quiz in the lab content by September 1st at midnight. These assessments do not count toward your average grade, but you will be unable to advance in either until you complete them.

On the weeks indicated on the Semester Calendar, a quiz is designed to test your knowledge of Module content. Quizzes typically contain ten objective questions and have a brief duration. As with the examinations, time limit is strictly enforced with a penalty of five points per extra minute taken. These
quizzes can be completed in the time allotment if you are prepared, and you can view the correct quiz answers after completion.

**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 unstable wireless connection (McDonalds, Starbucks, etc).

**Access to Content:** I give access to the week's content on that morning (12:01 a.m.) prior to when it is listed on the Semester Calendar. You are given your score on assessments immediately upon submission provided there are no Fill-In-The-Blank or Short Discussion questions. Time is needed to review the assessments and make sure questions were asked and graded fairly. Answers to quiz and exam questions will be available once every classmate has submitted their assessment, but that day is usually a couple of days after assessments are taken. If you have issues accessing the exams or need to reschedule, please contact me ASAP.

**Exams:** These exams will consist of objective questions on the material covered in Units 1, 2, and 3 (respectively). There are 50 questions each on Exams #1 & #2, and you will be given 60 minutes to complete each exam. There are 100 questions on Exam #3, and you will be given 120 minutes to complete the exam. The exams are not cumulative, but they are timed. The penalty for taking more time than allotted is five points per minute, so be prepared when you begin the assessment. You will not have adequate time to refer back to Unit/Module content.

Questions on lecture and lab quizzes/exams are written by the instructor, and the assessment content has been presented in the online content. D2L randomly selects questions from a question bank, and they appear one question at a time. However, you may return to any question and change your response within the prescribed time allotment. 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. Also, all exams can be taken up to two times and the highest attempt will be saved in the gradebook.

**Final Exam Exemption:** If your final semester average is >93, you will be exempt from a final exam. You may be exempt from the lecture final exam and not the lab final exam (or vice versa). You must complete all of the assessments (in lecture and in lab) to be exempt. Check with the instructor before assuming exam exemption. I will send out emails the week before the final exams to those students who qualify for an exam exemption.

**D2L Discussion Posts:** The Discussion Board (Course Tools in Navigation Bar) can be used as a place to exchange information amongst classmates. Please keep your comments on a professional level, and I will try to respond quickly when a question is asked. But remember, I have 150+ students taking online classes, and there is only one of me. If I miss your question in Discussions, email and give me a gentle reminder. I respond to a lot of email, so it takes a bit of time to answer all of them. Always, please let me know if you have any questions.

**Academic Integrity:** The Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outlines the prohibited conduct by any student enrolled in a course at SFA. It is the responsibility of all members of all faculty, staff, and students to adhere to and uphold this policy.
Articles IV, VI, and VII of the new Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outline the violations and procedures concerning academic conduct, including cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and misrepresentation. Cheating includes, but is not limited to:

1. Copying from the test paper (or other assignment) of another student,
2. Possession and/or use during a test of materials that are not authorized by the person giving the test,
3. Using, obtaining, or attempting to obtain by any means the whole or any part of a non-administered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program, or using a test that has been administered in prior classes or semesters without permission of the Faculty member,
4. Substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for one's self, to take a test,
5. Falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other records or academic work offered for credit,
6. Using any sort of unauthorized resources or technology in completion of educational activities.

Plagiarism is the appropriation of material that is attributable in whole or in part to another source or the use of one’s own previous work in another context without citing that it was used previously, without any indication of the original source, including words, ideas, illustrations, structure, computer code, and other expression or media, and presenting that material as one’s own academic work being offered for credit or in conjunction with a program course or degree requirements.

Collusion is the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any provision of the rules on academic dishonesty, including disclosing and/or distributing the contents of an exam.

Misrepresentation is providing false grades or résumés; providing false or misleading information in an effort to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit for oneself or another individual or to injure another student academically or financially.

Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy:
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/.
Student Wellness & Well-Being:
SFA values students’ overall well-being, mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. Students may experience stressors that can impact both their academic experience and their personal well-being. These may include academic pressure and challenges associated with relationships, emotional well-being, alcohol and other drugs, identities, finances, etc.

If you are experiencing concerns, seeking help, SFA provides a variety of resources to support students’ mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.

On-campus Resources:
The Dean of Students Office (Rusk Building, 3rd floor lobby)
www.sfasu.edu/deanofstudents
936.468.7249
dos@sfasu.edu

SFA Human Services Counseling Clinic Human Services, Room 202
www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp
936.468.1041

The Health and Wellness Hub “The Hub”
Location: corner of E. College and Raguet St.

To support the health and well-being of every Lumberjack, the Health and Wellness Hub offers comprehensive services that treat the whole person – mind, body and spirit. Services include:
Health Services
Counseling Services
Student Outreach and Support
Food Pantry
Wellness Coaching
Alcohol and Other Drug Education
www.sfasu.edu/thehub
936.468.4008
thehub@sfasu.edu

Crisis Resources:
Burke 24-hour crisis line: 1.800.392.8343
National Suicide Crisis Prevention: 9-8-8
Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1.800.273.TALK (8255)
Crisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741
## GEOL 1303.504 Introductory Geology Lecture
### Fall 2023

### Unit 1: Atoms & Minerals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8/28 - 9/1</td>
<td>Getting Started &amp; Unit 1 Module 1: Introduction to Geology</td>
<td>Read syllabus, semester calendar, and week's content. Take Get Started Quiz and Cheating &amp; Plagiarism Quiz by September 1st at midnight. Note: These assessments will not count toward your final grade. However, you will be unable to advance in the course until you complete them. Getting Started Quiz Due 9/1 @ 11:59 PM Cheating &amp; Plagiarism Quiz Due 9/1 @ 11:59 PM Student Introduction Due 9/1 @ 11:59 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/4 - 9/8</td>
<td>Unit 1 Module 2: Atomic Review</td>
<td>Quiz 1 Due 9/8 @ 11:59 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/11 - 9/15</td>
<td>Unit 1 Module 3: Mineral Physical Properties</td>
<td>Discussion 2: Texas Minerals Due 9/15 @ 11:59 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/18 - 9/22</td>
<td>Unit 1 Module 4: Mineral Compositional Groups</td>
<td>Quiz 2 Due 9/22 @ 11:59 PM</td>
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<td>9/25 - 9/29</td>
<td>Unit 1 Review &amp; Unit 1 Exam</td>
<td>Review Unit Material&lt;br&gt;Unit 1 Exam Due 9/29 @ 11:59 PM</td>
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### Unit 2: Rocks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10/2 - 10/6</td>
<td>Unit 2 Module 1: Igneous Rocks</td>
<td>Discussion 3: East Texas Earthquakes Due 10/6 @ 11:59 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/9 - 10/13</td>
<td>Unit 2 Module 2: Weathering</td>
<td>Quiz 3 Due 10/13 @ 11:59 PM</td>
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<td>10/16 - 10/20</td>
<td>Unit 2 Module 3: Sedimentary Rocks</td>
<td>Discussion 4: Black Gold, Texas Tea Due 10/20 @ 11:59 PM</td>
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<td>10/23 - 10/27</td>
<td>Unit 2 Module 4: Metamorphic Rocks</td>
<td>Quiz 4 Due 10/27 @ 11:59 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week</td>
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<td>11/6 - 11/10</td>
<td>Unit 3 Module 1: Gravity and Aridity</td>
<td>Quiz 5 Due 11/10 @ 11:59 PM</td>
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<td>11/13 - 11/17</td>
<td>Unit 3 Module 2: Rivers</td>
<td>Quiz 6 Due 11/17 @ 11:59 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/27 - 12/1</td>
<td>Unit 3 Module 3: Groundwater</td>
<td>Discussion 5: Water, Water Everywhere Due 12/1 @ 11:59 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/4 - 12/8</td>
<td>Unit 3 Module 4: Glaciations and Shorelines Semester Wrap-up</td>
<td>No Lecture Assignments for this module</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/11 - 12/15</td>
<td>Unit 3 Exam</td>
<td>Unit 3 Exam Due 12/12 @ 11:59 PM</td>
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