GEOL 4179.001
Senior Seminar
M: 5:40-6:30 PM, E.L. Miller Science, Room 330

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 Description/Requirements:
One semester hour course focused on developing improved oral technical, professional, academic, and interviewing skills for seniors in geology. A participatory seminar exposing students to industry professionals and academics in various fields of along with completing assignments and experiences associated with career and academic development in order to prepare students to utilize a degree in geology. Prerequisites: GEOL 2342, GEOL 2343, and senior standing.

Course Materials:
No textbook is required for this course.

Program Learning Outcomes:
PLO 1 - Demonstrate knowledge of the fundamental core geologic concepts (Mineralogy, Petrology, Structural Geology, Stratigraphy, Geophysics and Geochemistry). (Concepts)
PLO 2 - Execute geologic procedures and methods accurately, appropriately and efficiently. (Skills)
PLO 3 - Apply principles of logic and reasoning to develop and analyze geologic problems. (Logical Reasoning)
PLO 4 - Demonstrate competence in using various geologic tools, including technology, to formulate, represent, and solve problems. (Critical thinking - Problem Solving)
PLO 5 - Demonstrate proficiency in communicating geologic information in an appropriate form to the expected audience. (Communication)

Student Learning Outcomes:
After successful completion of this course students will be able to:
SLO 1 - Demonstrate competency in scientific communication
SLO 2 - Demonstrate preparation to pursue a professional career and/or graduate degree
SLO 3 - Demonstrate understanding of geologic disciplines and professional ethics
SLO 4 - Demonstrate competency in critical thinking through effective scientific written reports and oral presentations

General Education Core Curriculum Objectives & Outcomes:
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 Geology Senior Seminar, you are also enrolling in a Core Curriculum Course that seeks to develop the following core objectives established by the THECB:

- **Critical Thinking Skills** - To include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.
- **Communication Skills** - To include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas though written, oral, and visual communication.
- **Empirical and Quantitative Skills** - To include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions.
- **Teamwork** - To include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal.
- **Personal Responsibility** - To include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making.
- **Social Responsibility** - To include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.

**Course Requirements:**

**Resume and Cover Letter:**
Students will prepare and submit a draft copy of their resume and a cover letter for review. Suggestions for improvement will be made by the faculty member and the resume and cover letter will be updated and resubmitted for grading.

**Presentation:**
Students will make a formal presentation before the class. The presentation will cover a topic of the students choosing that relates to a geoscience topic of interest and must be approved by the instructor.

**Grading Breakdown & Policy:**
Your final grade will be determined by combining the weighted averages of your grades in each of the categories below. Letter grades will be assigned as follows: A = 90–100, B = 80–89, C = 70–79, D = 60–69, F = < 60

- Oral presentation: 30%
- Resume and Cover Letter 1st Draft: 20%
- Resume and Cover Letter Final Draft: 30%
- Attendance: 15%
- Participation: 5%

**Attendance Policy:**
Attendance is a graded component of the course (see policy above) and is mandatory for each weekly seminar meeting.

**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/](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

Course Schedule*

Aug. 28 – Introduction & course overview
Sep. 4 – Exploring career opportunities
Sep. 11 – Résumé & cover letter writing
Sep. 18 – Considering graduate programs
Sep. 25 – Research skills, Pt. 1: Accessing and utilizing resources
Oct. 2 – Research skills, Pt. 2: Scientific writing and peer review
Oct. 9 – Effective scientific communication and presentation
Oct. 16 – Interview skills primer
Oct. 23 – Guest speaker
Oct. 30 – Guest speaker
Nov. 6 – Guest speaker
Nov. 13 – Guest speaker
Nov. 20 – No class (Thanksgiving break)
Nov. 27 – Research presentations
Dec. 4 – Research presentations
Dec. 11 – No class (Finals week)

*Course calendar is tentative and scheduled dates may be subject to change at instructor’s discretion.