Earth Resources

CoSM Class Syllabus / Policy

2023 / Fall Semester
GEOL 4340.300
Earth Resources

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Office Hours: M: 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.; T: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.; or by appointment
Class meeting time and place: Miller Science, Room 330

Please feel free to stop by any time to ask questions, discuss any problems you may be having with the material or to help facilitate further understanding. If these hours conflict with your schedule, please call or email to make an appointment.

Course Description:

Earth Resources (GEOL 4340) – Three semester hours, three hours lecture per week. This course is an introduction to the geologic and economic factors that result in the development of commercial concentrations of mineral resources. Emphasis will be placed on the descriptive geology and origin of economic mineral concentrations within the context of their overall geologic settings. The geologic and economic nature of metallic and industrial mineral commodities in varied geologic environments will be discussed. Related topics to be discussed include importance of mineral resources to the global economy, mineral exploration and evaluation, and mineral extraction and processing. Prerequisites: GEOL 1301 or 1303.

Student Learning Outcomes:

The student is expected to understand and apply the following concepts:
1. Identify the different types of Earth resources and their importance to the global economy.
2. Correlate the spatial distribution of economic minerals and their relationship to the tectonic environment.
3. Determine the processes of formation of various economic ore deposits.
4. Identify the distribution and formation of industrial and agricultural mineral resources.
5. Understand the environmental problems associated with the extraction and utilization of mineral resources.

Text and Materials:

*Introducing Natural Resources* by Graham Park (2016, Kindle and paperback ~ $20-25); recommended but not required. Online content and other selected readings from outside sources will be posted to D2L.
Course Requirements:

**GEOL 4340** Earth Resources meets for a minimum of 37.5 lecture contact hours during the semester, including the final exam. Students are required to complete assignments based on readings, periodic quizzes and exams over course content, and a final exam. Students will be required to complete in-class and out-of-class assignments that evaluate their comprehension of course materials. Successful completion of all elements for the course requires at least six additional hours of out-of-class work each week.

**The Federal 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.

Course Calendar:

A brief outline of these topics will be posted on d2l as we progress through the semester. I will be pulling information from resources other than the text, so please be aware that the answer to every question is not always in your textbook.

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**Tentative Examination Schedule**

- **Exam 1:** Friday, October 6, 2023
- **Exam 2:** Friday, November 10, 2023
- **Final Exam:** Wednesday, December 13, 2023

**Field Trip:**

This class has one required field trip to Central Arkansas November 2 - 5 to examine the geologic environments associated with exploration and extraction of economic minerals and environmental issues related to economic minerals production. You will be required to keep a field notebook and collect samples to include in your final report. Excuse letters for your other classes will be available.

The first draft of your field report is due Sunday, November 19 by 11:30 p.m. This draft will be edited for grammar, style, and content by me and returned during the week of Thanksgiving before school resumes on Monday, November 27. The final draft of your field report is due Sunday, December 10 by 11:30 p.m. The field guide will be assembled and delivered to each student before the final exam.
Grading Policy:

Three major tests of 100 points each will be given during the semester. All tests are comprehensive and basic understanding of natural resources will be emphasized. Regular attendance in lecture is necessary for full understanding of the course material.

We will use the D2L platform for online content, discussion posts, exams, and field report submissions. There are sixteen discussion posts throughout the semester, totaling 160 points. During the final weeks of the semester, each student is responsible for a first draft (40 points) and final field report (100 points) that will be included as part of the final grade calculation.

There are a possible 600 points available, your grade will be determined by totaling the number of points earned by the possible 600 and calculated using the following scale:

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

Attendance Policy

Attendance is mandatory for understanding the material and participating in class. Some of the material I will present in class comes from a variety of sources, so attend lecture, ask questions, participate in discussions, and take your own notes.

Research Opportunities

During the fall and spring semester, our department encourages individual and group directed research projects for undergraduate and graduate students. These projects can be presented in departmental meetings, the Undergraduate Research Conference at SFA, regional, state and national academic meetings such as Texas Academy of Science, AAPG and GSA. If you are interested, please let me know.

Acceptable Student Behavior

Classroom behavior (in-person or online) should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the Student Conduct Code, policy D-34.1). Unacceptable, disruptive, or distracting behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic, or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend or participate in class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.

Academic Integrity (SFA Policy 4.1):

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.

Penalties for Academic Dishonesty
Penalties may include, but are not limited to, reprimand, no credit for the assignment or exam, resubmission of the work, make-up exam, failure of the course, or expulsion from the university.

Withheld Grades (SFA Policy 5.5):
Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic unit head, 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 by the deadline set by the instructor of record, not to exceed one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F, except as allowed through policy [i.e., Military Service Activation (6.14)]. If students 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. If a student has been found guilty of academic dishonesty, a grade of “WP” or “WH” may be changed to “WF” at the discretion of the faculty member. In the case of a grade change to “WF”, the course will not count towards the six-course drop limit since the student is incurring an academic penalty.

Please read the complete policy here.
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 this website.

Student Wellness and 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 and seeking help, SFA 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:

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

SFASU Human Services Counseling Clinic
www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp
Human Services Room 202
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