Instructor: Dr. Zach Fleming
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Office: Miller Science Building, Room 305
Office Hours: MW 1-3 p.m.; T 2-3 p.m.
Department: Earth Sciences & Geologic Resources

Course Calendar & Syllabus Information:

This course is a strictly web-based, virtual field trip of the Texas Hill Country and surrounding areas. No laboratory component is required for this course. Weekly course content will be released on Monday mornings throughout the 8-week duration of the course – from Monday, March 18 through Wednesday, May 8th. Each course content module is accompanied by either an online quiz or a discussion post.

For a detailed schedule of all activities and assessments in this course, please refer to the Course Calendar on D2L. There is a mandatory quiz associated with this syllabus, so please read all the information presented herein carefully! Once you’ve done so, please complete the Syllabus & Policy Quiz in order to proceed with the course material.

Note: The Syllabus & Policy Quiz must be completed before any of the course material will be made available. The content modules will remain locked until you complete this quiz!

Course Description:

Texas Hill Country Virtual Field Trip (GEOL 4171): Two credit hours for a half-term virtual field trip exploring the geology of the beautiful Texas Hill Country and surrounding areas. This region has a great diversity of geologic formations, landforms, and natural resources. We will tour the Hill Country from the comfort of our offices, homes, and dorms to see what the geology of central Texas has to offer – including rocks, minerals, fossils, geologic structures, and more!

Internet Access:

This course is delivered strictly online, so be sure your internet connection is as dependable as possible! I understand that there are connectivity issues associated with rural life. Please keep this in mind.
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 THEC:

• **Critical Thinking Skills** – creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.
• **Communication Skills** – effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication.
• **Empirical & Quantitative Skills** – manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts in informed conclusions.
• **Teamwork** – the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal.

Student Learning Outcomes:

After successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

*SLO 1* - Identify the three classes of rocks and their relationship within the rock cycle.
*SLO 2* - Gain an understanding of the theory of plate tectonics and how this theory relates to magma emplacement.
*SLO 3* - Identify and differentiate the effects of weathering, erosion and climate on various rock types.
*SLO 4* - Demonstrate an understanding of the changing paleogeography of the Texas Hill Country throughout geologic time.
*SLO 5* - Recognize the relationship between depositional environment and lithology.

Schedule of Course Topics:

- **Week One (3/18-24)**
  - Getting Started
  - Module 1: Geologic Background
  - Module 2: Trinity River – Crockett, TX
  - Module 3: Blackland Prairie

- **Week Two (3/25-31) – Easter Break**
  - Module 4: Balcones Fault
  - Module 5: Marquez Crater

- **Week Three (4/1-7)**
  - Module 6: Pilot Knob
  - Module 7: Austin Chalk
  - Module 8: Gypsum Quarry

- **Week Four (4/8-14)**
  - Module 9: San Gabriel River – Leander, TX
• **Week Five (4/15-21)**
  - Module 12: Longhorn Cavern
  - Module 13: Wilberns Formation
  - Module 14: Hoover Point

• **Week Six (4/22-28)**
  - Module 15: Hickory Sandstone
  - Module 16: Llano River
  - Module 17: Enchanted Rock

• **Week Seven (4/29-5/5)**
  - Module 18: Coal Creek Serpentinite
  - Module 19: Llanite Dike
  - Module 20: Metal Mining in Texas

• **Week Eight (5/8)**
  - Comprehensive Final Exam

**Online Quizzes:**

Each online quiz will consist of **10** multiple-choice, true/false, fill in the blank, matching, or multi-select questions that will be similar to those seen on the final exam. You will have **12 minutes** to complete online quizzes. Please refer to the **Course Calendar** on D2L for a schedule of quizzes. **Each student’s lowest quiz grade will be dropped at the end of the course.**

**Online Discussion Posts:**

Throughout the course of the virtual field trip, you will be prompted to engage in **online discussions** over a related topic. This may include content from the module, required reading assignments, or outside sources (e.g., videos). Please refer to the **Course Calendar** for a schedule of online discussions. **Each student’s lowest discussion grade will be dropped at the end of the course.**

**Comprehensive Final Exam:**

The comprehensive final exam will be administered through D2L and will consist of **65 questions** and will include a randomized assortment of multiple-choice, true/false, fill in the blank, matching, and multi-select. You will be given **75 minutes** to complete the final exam.

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 automatically scored.
Late Work:

I will NOT be accepting any late submissions of quizzes and discussions. This is a weekly self-paced course, and each assignment will be due no later than 11:59 AM on Sunday of the week it is assigned.

Assessments & Evaluation:

- 12 online quizzes – 40% of total course grade (lowest grade will be dropped)
- 10 online discussions – 40% of total course grade (lowest grade will be dropped)
- 1 comprehensive final exam – 20% of total course grade

**Grade scale:** 90-100 = A; 80-89 = B; 70-79 = C; 60-69 = D; < 60 = F

Attendance:

Due to the online modality of this course, regular attendance will NOT be taken. HOWEVER, attendance will be monitored via the D2L course activity log and students are expected to review course materials and news or announcements on a daily basis.

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. For additional information, go to [https://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-grades-5.5.pdf](https://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-grades-5.5.pdf).

**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](http://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](http://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