2024 / Fall
GEOL 5175.007
Advanced Graduate Studies

Name: Kevin Stafford
Department: Earth Sciences and Geologic Resources
Email: staffordk@sfasu.edu
Phone: 936.468.2429
Office: Miller Science 315S
Office Hours: TH 9-12

Class meeting time and place: TBA
Text and Materials:
  • n/a

Course Description:
Advanced Graduate Studies (GEOL 5175) – One to four semester hours. Individual studies; topics of study are especially designed to increase the student’s knowledge of some aspects of geology as related to his/her field of interest.

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.

Student Learning Outcomes:
There are no specific student learning outcomes for this course. Student learning outcomes will be personalized by the instructor for each section of this course instructed.

Course Requirements:
Advanced Graduate Studies (GEOL 5175) is designed to enable students study geoscience topics that are not offered in structured courses or enable student to study geoscience topics associated with under-enrolled courses.

Credit Hour Justification
Advanced Graduate Studies includes a minimum of 15 contact hours during the semester per credit hour enrolled. During that period, students meet multiple times with a faculty mentor to discuss the “Special Problems” topic that the instructor / student have designated as the focus of this course. Successful completion of all elements for the course requires at least two hours of out-of-class student work each week. Correspondingly more work will be assigned for greater numbers of credits received, generating more time spent investigating the Special Problems topic, more contact hours with the faculty mentor, and more out-of-class student work.

Attendance Policy:
• Attendance requirements include scheduled meetings with instructor / course mentor.
• Attendance requirements include regular access through your SFA email account. SFA email is an official tool communicating important reminders, announcements, and assignment directions.

Course Requirements
Evaluation of student learning will be assessed through combination of methods that may include exams, quizzes, projects, presentations, reports, discussions, etc. Exact assignments and grading details will be developed for each individual section of Special Problems. An example grading policy might be point based and include two exams that each exam will count 100 points of the total semester grade and a term project will count 100 points. A total of 300 points can be earned in the course. For this section, the grade will be based on a single term project worth 100 points to be completed by the end of the semester.

Grading Policy
grading will be calculated as:
• Project: 100 points
Total: 100 points

Course grade: >90 points = A; 80-90 points = B; 70-80 points = C; 60-70 points = D; <60 points = F.

Course Calendar:
There is no specific calendar or reading assignment for this course. This is an independent study course in which a term project must be completed by the end of the semester.

**Academic Integrity (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.

**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 coursework 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 to compute 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 promptly may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to [http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/](http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/).

**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, 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)
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)
- Joh Crisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741

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