2024 / Spring
GEOL 5388.007
Graduate Research

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Class meeting time and place: online
Text and Materials:  
- n/a

Course Description:  
Graduate Research (GEOL 5388) – Three semester hours. Graduate research should be planned and initiated at least one semester before the non-thesis project is completed.

Program Learning Outcomes:  
PLO 1. Demonstrate mastery of fundamental core geologic concepts (e.g., Economic Geology, Engineering Geology, Geochemistry, Geomorphology, Hydrogeology, Mineralogy, Petrology, Stratigraphy, and Structural Geology).
PLO 2. Demonstrate mastery of geologic procedures and methods accurately, appropriately and efficiently, including incorporation of technology.
PLO 3. Students will conduct, present, and defend scientific research to show mastery of geologic concepts.
PLO 4. Students will demonstrate mastery in effective oral and visual communication.
PLO 5. Students will demonstrate mastery in effective written communication.

Student Learning Outcomes:  
Upon successful completion of this course, the student will successfully write a scope of project proposal and collect data for non-thesis research.

Course Requirements:  
Graduate Research (GEOL 5388) is designed to enable students develop and successfully execute the collection of data as described in the student’s scope of project.

Credit Hour Justification  
Graduate Research includes a minimum of 37.5 instructional contact hours per semester. Each student meets multiple times with a faculty research mentor to develop and successfully execute geoscience research in either a field or laboratory setting. The student must become familiar with primary literature pertaining to the research project, and is responsible for learning experimental design and laboratory safety. Throughout the semester, the student must provide regular updates to the faculty mentor about any changes to protocols, data analyses, and interpretation of research findings. The student also completes a written summary of accomplishments that is presented to the faculty mentor. That content is also incorporated into the non-thesis presented for evaluation by the graduate faculty at the conclusion of the degree program. Successful completion of all elements for the course requires at least six additional hours of out-of-class student work each week.

Course Calendar:  
Tentative schedule of topics to be covered in GEOL 5388 include:  
- Note: no assigned reading is directly associated with this course.
  - Weeks 1: Development of data collection procedures
  - Weeks 2: Assess and validate data collection methodologies
  - Weeks 3-4: Collect field or laboratory data for non-thesis project
  - Weeks 5-6: Process and interpret data collected for non-thesis project
  - Weeks 7-8: Compilation / submission of written report for non-thesis project.
Grading Policy:
Grade for this course is based on the final written report which presents and synthesizes non-thesis research conducted throughout course. The final written report will be graded on a 100-point scale. Letter grades for the course will be based on points earned on final report: 90-100 = A; 80-89 = B, 70-79 = C, 60-69 = D. <60 = F.

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

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.

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/.

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)

936.468.1041

**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

**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](http://www.sfasu.edu/thehub)

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