cCoSM Class Syllabus / Policy

2016 / Spring Semester
GOL 101.001
Fundamentals of Earth Science

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Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday: Noon – 2:00 PM; Friday: 9:00 AM – 11:00AM; Noon – 2:00 PM; or by appointment

Class meeting time and place: Monday & Wednesday: 9:00 – 9:50 AM, R. E. McGee Business 455.

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.

Text and Materials:
• *The Changing Earth* (6th Ed.), Monroe et al. (Recommended)
• 4 scantrons (Form 882)
• *Fundamentals of Earth Science Laboratory Manual* (available in all SFA bookstores)

Course Description:
Fundamentals of Earth Science (GOL 101) Two hours lecture, two hours laboratory per week. An introduction to the fundamental principles of Earth Science. Topics include the earth’s structure and surface landforms; mineral and energy resources; geologic hazards such as volcanoes, earthquakes and landslides; water resources; and the unifying theory of plate tectonics. Required lab fee. No prerequisites. The lab grade will count for 1/3 of the total grade. At the end of the semester, one grade will be given that incorporates both lab and lecture grades.

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 THECB.
CO 1. **Critical Thinking Skills** – creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information. (SLO 1-4)
CO 2. **Communication Skills** – effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication. (SLO 4-5)
CO 3. **Empirical and Quantitative Skills** – manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions. (SLO 1-2,4)
CO 4. **Teamwork** – the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal. (SLO 3-5)

**Student Learning Outcomes for Lecture and Lab:**
After successful completion of this course students will be able to:

SLO 1. Demonstrate an understanding of fundamental geologic concepts as it relates to Earth processes and landscape evolution through geologic time.

SLO 2. Use quantitative reasoning to interpret geologic data (tables, figures, graphs) from primary research, data assimilation and models to assess the differences in competing scientific theories associated with rock formation.

SLO 3. Demonstrate knowledge on the interdependence of science and technology and the influences geologic reasoning associated with identifiable and testable hypotheses of geologic processes.

SLO 4. Critically assess the interrelationships between geologic phenomena and communicate the resulting conclusions in oral, visual and written formats.

SLO 5. Demonstrate an understanding of the skills and attitudes necessary for effective teamwork in collaborative learning activities.

**Course Requirements:**
GOL101 (Fundamentals of Earth Science) is an introduction to the study of the earth’s structure and natural processes. In this course, students will be introduced to and apply the scientific method to evaluate hypotheses regarding the earth’s structure, the distribution of natural resources, the immediate and long term impact of geologic hazards, and anthropogenic influence on the natural world.

This class is a 3-credit hour course and has a weekly requisite lab where students will gain hands-on experience with earth materials, gathering and analyzing data, communicating their findings and working as a team to explain scientific processes.
Lecture Course Calendar: *

Topics to be covered in GOL 101 Lecture include:
  o Short History of Everything
  o Plate Tectonics and Earth’s Structure
  o Earth’s Materials – Minerals
  o Weathering, Sediments, Soils
  o Sedimentary Rocks
  o Igneous Rocks
  o Metamorphic Rocks
  o Volcanism
  o Earthquakes
  o Energy

*Topics may not be presented in the above order but notes will be posted before lecture on the d2l webpage for the class.

Tentative Examination Schedule:  Exam 1: After minerals
(Subject to change)  Exam 2: After rocks
  Exam 3: After energy
  Final Exam: University Scheduled

Make up exams will be given on Friday, May 6th, 2016 at 1:00 PM

Cell phones, calculators, and other electronic devices are NOT permitted during exams. If you are using them in an exam, it will be assumed that you are cheating and you will receive a grade of “0” on that exam.

Grading Policy (Lecture is 2/3 of total grade, lab is 1/3):
  • Exam 1, 2, & 3 worth 20%
  • Final Exam worth 25% (Final grade will replace lowest exam grade)
  • Attendance/participation worth 5%
  • Assignments worth 10%
  • Grade Scale:  90-100 + A, 80-89 + B, 70-79 + C, 60-69 + D, < 60 = F

All lecture exams will include a multiple-choice section with additional sections that will vary between exams but may include any or all of the following sections: 1) multiple choice questions; 2) true / false questions; 3) fill in the blank questions; 4) short answer questions; 5) figure illustration; 6) short essay questions.
The exams will cover questions from lecture, assigned reading material and current geologic events discussed in class. You will need a Scantron (Form 882) and a number 2 pencil for the exams. The essay questions are part of the test and are sometimes extra credit. When answering the essay questions, I expect you to use complete sentences, correct grammar and spelling. The final exam will be given at the University’s scheduled time.

No extra credit will be assigned to help improve your grade, so come prepared for the exams. It is imperative that you attend all lectures and labs, pay attention in class, take detailed notes and use those notes to study. In other words – get your money’s worth!

**Attendance Policy:**
- Daily attendance will be taken for university accounting purposes. Success in this course will reflect the level effort you put into the course.
- Be prepared for lectures by reading the material to be covered prior to attending class. Questions are encouraged and welcome – do not hesitate to ask.
- No electronic devices are needed during lectures for this class, including cell phones and calculators. Please turn them off and do not use them in class. Ringing phones and beeping electronics disturb others in the class and interrupt lectures. If you interrupt class with your personal electronic devices, you will be asked to leave for the day. You are here to learn, not correspond with your friends.
- If you are late to class, please seat yourself quietly. Try not to be late because it interrupts others in the class. If you need to use the restroom or become ill, please excuse yourself from the lecture quietly.
- If you need to study for another class, do it elsewhere. The classroom is not the place to sleep either. Basically, refrain from activities in lectures that will distract or disturb the other students in the room, because you are all paying for the class and most people want to get what they are paying for.

**Classroom Etiquette:**
- Ball caps and hats should be removed while in the classroom.
- Pants should be worn as they were designed, not sagging below your underwear line. Use a belt, drawstring, or rope to hold up your pants.
- If you have to hold up your pants while you walk, they do not fit. Wear appropriate clothing.
- Headphones, earbuds, or other auditory devices will not be allowed during lecture.
Academic Integrity (A-9.1)
Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty
Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit.

Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp

Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (A-54)
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.

The circumstances precipitating the request must have occurred after the last day in which a student could withdraw from a course. Students requesting a WH must be passing the course with a minimum projected grade of C.

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/.