GOL 131 - Spring 2016
Introduction to Physical Geology

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Office Hours: As this is a web-based course, office hours will be offered electronically.

Course Description

4 semester hours (3 hours lecture, 2 hours laboratory per week). Designed for the student with no geology background. Introduction to the study of minerals, rocks and the processes that modify and shape the surface features of the Earth. Focus on energy, mineral and water resources; volcanism; and other practical aspects of geology. Required lab fee.

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

1. Understand minerals and their physical properties.
2. Gain an understanding of rocks and how they form.
3. Study the external forces at the Earth’s surface and how those forces modify and shape the Earth’s surface.
4. Study the morphological features that external forces produce on the Earth’s surface.

Time

Remember, you are expected to spend the same amount of time on online courses that you would spend for F2F (face to face) courses. That is, expect to spend three hours per week on the lecture portion and two hours per week on the laboratory portion. In addition, reports for success indicate that two to three additional hours (per credit hour) be spent—indepenent of whether the class is online or F2F. In other words, nine to twelve hours/week should be spent on lecture content and six to eight hours should be spent on lab content. Many of you are working, have families, or taking other classes, so your time is limited. I have experienced the same, and I understand your position.

Text and Materials

Optional: No textbook is required because there are no text assignments, but the texts listed below are excellent (any edition). I recommend that you purchase a text if you have a learning style that benefits from reading and referring to a text. If a textbook is going to be used as a doorstop, don't purchase one.

  o on reserve in Steen Library.
- Physical Geology by Leet, Judson, Kauffman, current edition
- Earth by Tarbuck, Lutgens, & Tasa, current edition
- Putnam’s Geology by Larson & Birkeland, current edition

Grading and Evaluation
Grades are determined from a variety of assignments:

- **Examinations**: 3 @100 points (300 points total)
- **Quizzes**: 5 (5 highest out of 6 given) @20 points each (100 points)

TOTAL = 400 pts

Grades will break down as follows:
A = 360-400
B = 320-359
C = 280-319
D = 240-279
F = 239 and below

It is your responsibility to keep up with your grades, and they can always be viewed (Grades in Navigation Bar). The Field Project is **optional** and only used as extra credit in lab. Guidelines for this project are listed in the Gol 131L Syllabus.

The laboratory is a separate 1-hour credit, and lecture is a separate 3-hour credit. However, they are co-requisites (meaning the initial attempt requires simultaneous enrollment). You must pass both (≥ 60 average) to receive credit for a laboratory science. For example, if you have an 85 average in lecture, you would receive the grade "B" for completion of the 3-hour lecture portion. However, if you have a 55 average in lab, you would receive the grade "F" for non-completion of the required 1-hour lab. University requirements are that both (lab and lecture) be successfully completed. Check the requirements of your College to determine if you should repeat only the portion that was failed or both portions (lab and lecture).

If you want to determine your lecture average, follow these instructions:

- **LECTURE**
  1. **Current** lecture average
     - Get Started Quiz is **not** included.
     - add **completed** quiz grade(s) and exam grade(s)
     - divide by number **completed**; for example:
       - if 3 quizzes (@20 pts) and 1 exam (@100 pts)
         - TOTAL = 160 points
         - divide by 1.6
       - if 4 quizzes (@ 20 pts) and 2 exams (@ 100 pts)
         - TOTAL = 280 points
         - divide by 2.8
     - etc
  2. **Final** lecture average:
     - Get Started Quiz will **not** count toward final grade.
     - add 5 highest quiz grades and 3 exam grades
     - TOTAL =
       - 400 points
       - divide by 4

**Quizzes**

You must take the Get Started Quiz and Cheating & Plagiarism Quiz by **Friday, January 22**. These assessments will **not** count toward your final grade, but you will be unable to advance in the course (open Content or take assessments) until you complete these quizzes.
On the weeks indicated on the Semester Calendar, there will be a quiz designed to test your knowledge of the content covered in the module. They typically contain ten objective questions and have a brief duration. As with the examinations, the time limit will be strictly enforced, with a penalty of five points per extra minute. These quizzes can be completed in the time allotment if you are prepared, and you can view the correct quiz answers on the Monday following the quiz deadline.

**Dependable internet connection**

When you are taking quizzes or exams, always rely on a dependable internet connection. I do not recommend taking an assessment via your phone or any unstable wireless connection (McDonalds, Starbucks, etc).

**Examinations**

The exams will consist of objective questions on the material covered in Units 1, 2, and 3 (respectively). There are 50 questions (@ 2 points) on Exams #1 & #2, and you will be given 60 minutes to complete each exam. There are 100 questions (@ 1 point) on Exam #3, and you will be given 120 minutes to complete the exam. The same amount of time is given to F2F classes. The exams are not cumulative, and they will be timed. The penalty for taking more time than is allotted is five points per minute. When taking quizzes and exams, it is recommended that you save your responses as you complete each question. Questions on lecture and lab quizzes/exams do not come from published question banks, and the assessment questions have been covered in the online content.

**LabPaq Kit**

Every student enrolled in this online course is required to purchase a LabPaq kit from HOL (Hands-On Labs). These kits will be used weekly in lab for mineral and rock content, quizzes, and lab practical exams. They will aid in learning the physical properties of minerals and rocks and in their identification. Order these kits now so that they will be available when you begin the course content. Ordering information is also included in the lab portion of this course.

**Hands-On Labs Student Ordering Instructions:**

- Go To: [http://www.holscience.com](http://www.holscience.com)
- Click: “Order Here”
- Log In: C000732
- Password: labpaq
- Under GENRAL LAB SUPPLIES: Click on Geology
- Add these 2 items to Cart:
  - 10-0035-00-01 Rock Set, Variety (49 pieces)
  - 21-0145-00-01 Assy, Mineral Identification

**Discussion Board**

The Discussion Board (Course Tools in Navigation Bar) can be used as a place to exchange information amongst classmates. Please keep your comments on a professional level, and I will try to respond quickly when a question is asked. But remember, there are 120 of you (in two sections of lab and lecture) and only one of me. If I miss your question in Discussions, email me and give me a gentle reminder. I respond to a lot of email, so it takes a bit of time to answer all of them. Always, please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

**Access to Content**
I will give access to the week's content on Saturday mornings (12:01 a.m.) prior to when it is listed on the Semester Calendar. By no means are you required to begin the week's content over a weekend, but some of you have very tight schedules that could benefit from an early start. Lecture exams will be posted on Fridays between 12:01am and 11:59pm, but check the Semester Calendar because I have tried to give you allowances for early departures around University holidays. Exams are scheduled on a Friday due to prior student's request because it worked better with their schedules. You may be given your score immediately upon submission provided there are no Fill-In-The-Blank or Short Discussion questions. I need time to review the assessments and make sure questions were asked and graded fairly. Answers to quiz and exam questions will be available once every classmate has submitted their answers, but that day is usually the Monday after the assessment is taken. Quizzes, unit, and module content will be available until 11:59pm the day before an exam, but it cannot be viewed the day of an exam. So, plan appropriately!

Get Started information in lab can be accessed immediately, but you cannot access course content in lab until the second week of classes. Be sure and check out the lab, but I want to introduce you to lecture content first!

Understanding D2L Email

- D2L Email is not only secure, but it is spam-free as well. Keeping it secure and spam-free, though, requires keeping it a closed system.
- D2L Email is an internal (closed) system which means that you must log into D2L to read and to reply to messages.
- Users do have a "forward" option which will forward copies of messages to an external email account such as Gmail, Yahoo, mySFA, and others. However, beware that...
  - Users may not reply to a message from an external account. An example would be that Amy has her D2L email forwarded to her Gmail account. She reads her messages from her Gmail account, and if she wishes to reply, Amy must enter D2L to reply to the message. If she attempts to reply to the D2L message from inside her Gmail account, the message will fail to send.
- D2L limits attachment size to 600 kb due to server size limitations.
- Email questions should be sent to sharppatri1@d2l.sfasu.edu.

News on Home page

Be sure and check (and read!) News on the Home Page frequently because that is where I post announcements and information.

Final Exam Exemption

If your final semester average is 93 or higher, you may be exempt from the final exam. Classmates may be exempt from the lecture final exam and not the lab final exam (or vice versa). However, students must complete all of the quizzes (in lecture and in lab) and assignments to be exempt. Check with the instructor before assuming exam exemption.

Deadlines posted

I set a lot of deadlines and restrictions in online courses. If you ever note that one of the postings appears to be erroneous, please call it to my attention. I check (and re-check, and re-check, and re-check!) the postings, but I'm human and sometime overlook the errors.

University Policies:
Academic Integrity

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 and 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. Careers have ended because of academic dishonesty. If you have any questions about what does or does not constitute plagiarism, please let me know. In doing so, we can avoid what could potentially be a very costly and serious error. I take plagiarism and cheating very seriously and will not tolerate it.

Please read the University's complete Academic Integrity 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.

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/.