CoSM Class Syllabus / Policy

2016 / Spring Semester
GOL 132 Laboratory
The Earth Through Time

Name: Mrs. Mindy Shaw Faulkner
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Phone: 936-468-2236
Office: E.L. Miller Science, Room 307
Office Hours: MWF: 11-12, MTR: 2-5; or by appointment

Class meeting time and place: Room 302 Miller Science, time varies according to section.
The laboratory classes will be staffed by Graduate Teaching Assistants. Each teaching assistant will post
their office room number, phone number, and office hours. If these times conflict with the schedule of a
student, appointments may be made with the teaching assistant. Grades CANNOT be given out over the
phone or through email.

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.

Lab Orientation meeting: 5:00 p.m., Miller Science Room 335
In order to go over the laboratory policies, you are required to attend ONE laboratory orientation meeting
during the first week of classes. You may choose ONE laboratory orientation meeting to attend; they will
be held on Tuesday, January 19th; Wednesday, January 20th; or Thursday, January 21st. Choose the
meeting that best fits your schedule and attend. There will be a quiz over the syllabus at the end of the
meeting to record your attendance. The points from this quiz can be used to replace your lowest weekly
classroom quiz grade.

Course Description:
The Earth Through Time Laboratory (GOL 132L) - One semester hour, two hours laboratory per week.
History and development of the continents and ocean basins, and the evolution of life on Earth. Includes
earthquakes and the Earth’s interior, mountain building, drifting continents and sea-floor spreading, the
ice ages, space science, and oceanography. 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.

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

SLO 1. Demonstrate an understanding of stratigraphy and structural geology as it relates to Earth processes and evolution through geologic time. (Critical Thinking, Empirical and Quantitative Skills)

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. (Critical Thinking, Empirical and Quantitative Skills)

SLO 3. Demonstrate knowledge on the interdependence of science and technology and the influences geologic reasoning associated with identifiable and testable hypotheses. (Critical Thinking, Teamwork)

SLO 4. Critically assess the interrelationships between geologic processes and communicate the resulting conclusions in visual and written formats. (Critical Thinking, Communication, Empirical and Quantitative Skills)

SLO 5. Demonstrate an understanding of the skills and attitudes necessary for effective teamwork in collaborative learning activities. (Communication Skills, Teamwork)

Text and Materials:
The Earth Through Time Laboratory Manual (available in all SFA bookstores)

The lab manual is required and will be needed the first day of lab, the week of January 26-28, 2016.

Course Requirements:
This class is a 1-credit hour course and has a weekly requisite lab where students will gain hands-on experience with fossils, geologic materials and data, and learn to interpret geologic maps. You will receive a separate grade for the laboratory section of the course, assigned by the laboratory coordinator.

*** Due to the distraction that they provide, laptops will not be allowed unless you have a directive from Disability Services. No exceptions!!

Attendance Policy:
Attendance is mandatory for understanding the material and participating in class. Opportunities for make-up exercises/exams will be approved by the Laboratory Coordinator for EXCUSED absences only. The following constitutes an excused absence:

- Illness: note from doctor for day of the lab.
- Death in Family: must be documented by obituary clipping from newspaper or funeral home.
- Jury Duty: must be documented by note from judge or other court official.
- School Function: name must appear in Faculty Bulletin or note must be sent from instructor, coach, etc.

After a student has missed more than 3 labs, 10 points will be deducted from the final lab average for each additional absence. Two times tardy to class will count as one absence. You are expected to come to lab, to be on time, and to stay for the duration of the lab. Whenever it is possible, arrangements should be made BEFORE the lab time so that provisions can be made.

If you become ill or have a restroom emergency during the lab period, please excuse yourself quietly. If you need to study for another class or read the paper, the library is available. If you need to nap, that is best done at home – not in the classroom. If you are sleeping or reading other material, you cannot be
participating and I will assume you to be absent in mind and spirit, if not in body, for the day. Use your time wisely and learn how to plan ahead.

**Laboratory Exercises:**
Weekly laboratory exercises will reinforce lecture material with practical exercises designed to enhance specific General Education Core Curriculum Objectives. Each week, students will be introduced to these core objectives in the form of classroom exercises and electronic assignments delivered through the SFA platform Desire2Learn (d2l). Students will be responsible for accessing and completing pertinent materials from d2l.

Each week, the student will be responsible for:

1. Required reading of the upcoming chapter in the lab book to help prepare for the laboratory exercises.
2. A weekly requisite electronic pre-quiz administered through d2l before the laboratory meeting to ensure the student is prepared for the laboratory exercises.
3. Laboratory exercises completed in class. During the laboratory exercises, students will work individually and in teams to complete the in-class assignments.
4. A weekly in-class quiz to test comprehension of the laboratory exercises.
5. A weekly requisite electronic post-quiz administered through d2l after the laboratory meeting to ensure retention of the material.

The electronic quizzes will help to prepare you for the lab exercises assigned the following week and reinforce the material covered in the laboratory exercises. The pre-quizzes will cover selected reading material assigned, the post-quizzes will help students synthesize the material and retain the information. All quizzes, both electronic and in-class, should be taken individually. The electronic quizzes will open on Friday at 12:00 a.m. and remain available until Monday at 12 midnight of the following week. Since the electronic quizzes will be open for several days and are available 24 hours a day during the open period, there will be no opportunity for make-up work for these quizzes.

**Grading Policy:**

Your laboratory grade will consist of the following:

- Weekly laboratory exercises (11 exercises @ 10 points each) 110
- Weekly electronic pre-quizzes (11 quizzes @ 5 points each) 55
- Weekly electronic post-quizzes (9 quizzes @ 5 points each) 45
- Online exams (Midterm and Final Exam, 25 points each) 50
- In-class exams (Midterm and Final Exam, 100 points each) 200

Total Points 460

Major exams will consist of two parts: an online exam delivered through the d2l platform and a classroom exam during the laboratory period. Grades for laboratory classroom activities, exams, and electronic assignments will be delivered through d2l.

You **will** receive a separate grade for your laboratory performance. Your final grade for the laboratory section of the course will be assigned by the Laboratory Coordinator and posted to the University grading system at the appropriate time. Weekly lab grades will be posted using Desire2Learn (d2l), which can be accessed through https://d2l.sfasu.edu. You may log in using your mySFA username and password.
Missed Work and Make-up Exams:
All make-up exams are departmental and will be given at one time. It is the responsibility of the student to find out the date and time of the exam. The Laboratory Coordinator can provide that information. All quizzes/exams must be made up NO LATER THAN 2 WEEKS AFTER REGULARLY SCHEDULED TIME. In order to make-up exams or classroom quizzes, you must have an EXCUSED ABSENCE.

Each lab must be completed during the lab period. You must be present for the entire lab in order to turn in the lab exercise at the conclusion of the lab. Cell phones, tablets, and other electronic devices are NOT permitted during the class or 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. If you are using them in class, you will be asked to leave.

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/.
First Aid Information:
Dilute hydrochloric acid (10%) will be used in this lab to assist in mineral identification.

FIRST AID:
• **EYE CONTACT:** If eye contact occurs, flush eyes with plenty of running water and continue for at least 15 minutes. Get medical attention if irritation persists.
• **SKIN CONTACT:** Flush affected skin area with water. Wash with soap and water. If irritation occurs, consult a physician.

Helpful Numbers:
- Campus Information 468-4696
- Student Help Desk 468-4357
- Desire2Learn Help 468-1919
- Geology Department 468-3701
- Laboratory Coordinator 468-2236

Emergency Numbers:
- Campus Police 468-2608
- Emergency 911
- SFA Health Clinic 468-4008
- Poison Control Center 800-222-1222
- Domestic Violence & Rape Crisis Hotline 800-828-7233
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***DATES FOR EXAMS AND QUIZZES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE!***