GEOLOGY 2103.001 Undergraduate Seminar in Geology - Research in the Geosciences
Department of Physical and Environmental Sciences

SPRING SEMESTER 2015

Course Information

Course number/section: GEOL 2103.001
Class meeting time: Tue 06:00 to 06:50 p.m.
Class location: EN 107

Instructor Information

Instructor: Dr. Tania-Maria Anders
Office location: CS 202
Office Hours: Tue/Thu 2:00 to 3:00 pm, Tue 5:00 to 6:00 pm, and Wed 02:00 to 03:00 pm or by appointment. I encourage you to email me with any questions or concerns you may have (see email address listed below).
Telephone: 825-3755
E-mail: tania.anders@tamucc.edu

Required texts/material

Textbook: no text required
Required reading material will be posted on blackboard.

Course Description

Catalog Course Description:
Introductory level seminar featuring diverse topics and speakers. Main focus on current geologic research, planning a career in geology, and career options upon graduation. In-house as well as external speakers. May not be repeated for credit but attendance in subsequent semesters is highly encouraged.

Extended Course Description:
This Seminar-style class consists of a series of weekly meetings during which you will be exposed to varying topics related to research in the geosciences. The main focus will be on the following subject areas:
   a) Geologic research (in-house and external speakers)
   b) Planning your college career and beyond
   c) Presentation of scientific material – Science writing and beyond
This (or “GEOL 2102.001 Undergraduate Seminar - Careers in the Geosciences”) is a required course for geology majors. Grade assigned will be “credit” (CR) or “no credit” (NC). This course may *not* be repeated for credit but attendance in subsequent semesters is encouraged.

**Prerequisites and Co-requisites**

None

**Student Learning Outcomes and Assessment**

Upon successful completion of this course, you should be familiar with / demonstrate knowledge of:

1. Current topics in geology
2. How to present scientific information both in writing and verbally
3. How to plan a successful college career

**Instructional Methods and Activities**

Primary goal of this course is to expose you to a variety of geologic research topics. Guest speakers from the campus community and beyond will present their area of expertise. Another method of learning will include the discussion of assigned scientific readings.

**Major Course Requirements and Grading**

Grade assigned for this course will be “credit” (CR) or “no credit” (NC). In order to pass this class, students may miss no more than 2 *class meetings* during the course of the semester. It is the student’s responsibility to sign in each class meeting.

In addition, each student must turn in weekly assignments. Depending on the topic of the week, the assignments may be:

1. Summaries of the research presentations. These summaries must include:
   - Name of presenter
   - Title of presentation
   - Area of expertise/profession of presenter
   - Summary of presentation (two paragraphs minimum)
   - Reflection on most interesting points learned (list top 3)
   - Question for presenter (if any)
2. Reflections on the assigned reading material. Details will be given in class and will vary depending on topic.

**Course Policies**

**Attendance**

You may miss no more than 2 *class meetings* during the course of the semester. It is your responsibility to sign in each class meeting.

**Use of Electronics**

While in the classroom, please store cell phones, laptop computers, and any other electronic devises that may distract you or others from actively participating in class in your bags. It is very disrespectful to not give guest speakers who take time out of their busy schedules to be with us your full attention!
College and University Policies

Academic Integrity
It is expected that university students will demonstrate a high level of maturity, self-direction, and ability to manage their own affairs. Students are viewed as individuals who possess the qualities of worth, dignity, and the capacity for self-direction in personal behavior. University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, posting material developed by the faculty (e.g. exams) in any form including electronic, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one's own work.) Cheating will not be tolerated and will result in a failing grade in the course and possible further disciplinary action by the university.

See Full University Policy at http://catalog.tamucc.edu/content.php?catoid=10&navoid=313#Academic_Integrity

Classroom/Professional Behavior/Civility
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has a diverse student population that represents the population of the state. Our goal is to provide you with a high quality educational experience that is free from repression. You are responsible for following the rules of the University, city, state and federal government. We expect that you will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

Notice to Students with Disabilities and Veterans
Disability Services (DS) is the hub for coordinating services and accommodations to ensure accessibility and utilization of all programs for all Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi students with disabilities. Our services are designed to meet the unique educational needs of enrolled students with documented permanent or temporary disabilities. DS provides intake and consultation services to students seeking to register with our office. DS reviews an individual’s documentation of disability and assesses eligibility for services and the determination of reasonable accommodations. For more information visit the Disability Services Office at 116 Corpus Christi Hall or go to http://disabilityservices.tamucc.edu/

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall 116.
If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

**Academic Advising**
The College of Science and Engineering requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Academic Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, a faculty mentor, and the department chair. The College’s Academic Advising Center is located in Center for Instructions CI 350, and can be reached at 825-3928.

**Grade Appeal Process**
As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules website at http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html, and the College of Science and Engineering Grade Appeals webpage (http://sci.tamucc.edu/students/GradeAppeal.html). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the chair or director of the appropriate department or school, the Office of the College of Science and Engineering Dean, or the Office of the Provost.

**Statement of Academic Continuity**
In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi; this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.

**Dropping a Course**
I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with me before you decide to drop to be sure it is the best thing to do. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. **April 10, 2015** is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

**Reading Assignments**
All reading assignments are to be read prior to the class in which the material will be discussed.

**General Disclaimer**
I reserve the right to modify the information, schedule, assignments, deadlines, and course policies in this syllabus if and when necessary. I will announce such changes in a timely manner during regular scheduled lecture periods.

Class Meeting Schedule

*TOPICS AND SPEAKERS TO BE ANNOUNCED THROUGHOUT THE SEMESTER.*

*Please record topics and speakers below as this information becomes available.*

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**Listservs**

*geolstu-list@listserv.tamucc.edu*  
Geology listserv