Geological Field Explorations GEOL 2101.001  
Department of Physical & Environmental Sciences  
Fall 2015

A. COURSE INFORMATION
   Course number/section: GEOL 2101.001  
   Class meeting time: Wednesday 11:00-11:50  
   Class location: OCNR-255  
   Course Website: bb9.tamucc.edu

B. INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION
   Instructor: Dr. Valeriu Murgulet  
   Office location: CS 205  
   Office hours: Monday 2:00-4:00  
   Telephone: 361-825-6023  
   e-mail: valeriu.murgulet@tamucc.edu  
   Appointments: by email

C. COURSE DESCRIPTION
   Introduction to basic field skills in geology and other field-based sciences. Basic techniques in safe field practices, collection of field observations, note taking, and scientific reasoning. Two- to four-day field excursion to areas that display a variety of geologic phenomena within Texas. Field trip destinations may vary from year to year. Safety training given during a laboratory meeting early in the semester is required for continued participation in this course.

D. PREREQUISITES AND COREQUISITES
   Prerequisites
   None

   Corequisites
   None

E. REQUIRED TEXTBOOK(S), READINGS AND SUPPLIES
   Required Textbook(s)
   None

   Optional Textbook(s) or Other References
   Reading material will be provided through blackboard.

Supplies/Field Gear Recommendations
Backpack to store day-use gear
☐ Canteens or water bottles holding 2 quarts minimum
☐ Hat with wide brim
☐ Sunglasses
☐ Sun block
☐ Hiking boots or sturdy sneakers (no hiking with flip flops, sandals, etc…)
☐ Clothes that provide sufficient weather protection (rain or shine)
☐ Sleeping bag
☐ Tarp to place sleeping bag on and/or tent
☐ Flash light
☐ Personal hygiene stuff
☐ Personal medication
☐ Mug/cup
☐ Note book with stiff cover (preferred) or note pad on clipboard
☐ Pen
☐ Pencils
☐ Eraser

You may not bring:

Your personal car, sporting equipment other than small stuff (soccer ball, Frisbee, etc, but no bicycles), pets, alcohol or illegal substances, fire arms, your friends or your parents unless they have signed up for the class.

F. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES AND ASSESSMENT

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

1. Recognize and reconstruct the natural processes that result in the geologic phenomena observed in the field.
2. Learn how to observe and take notes in the field.
3. Acquire basic principles of scientific reasoning.
4. Navigate the field safely.

G. INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND ACTIVITIES

The class will meet on Wednesdays and Fridays throughout the semester in the classroom to cover the field exploration topics. Lecture power point slides, class exercises, discussions will be used while in the classroom.
The following assessment tools will be used:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>% of FINAL GRADE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homework</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field-based project</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project questionnaire</td>
<td>40</td>
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</tbody>
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Attendance of the field trip(s) and class meetings before and after the trip(s) is mandatory and will be checked. While group discussion and collaboration is encouraged during the trip/s, the work you hand in is expected to be your own. Please note that alcohol and drug policies are strictly enforced. Violations will result in immediate expulsion and a failing grade.

I. COURSE CONTENT/SCHEDULE

Beginning of the Semester: Several class meetings will be scheduled to introduce you to basic geologic principles, including geologic maps and the study of rocks and minerals. Field trip date(s) will be determined.

2-3 weeks prior to trip: Orientation meetings: Introduction to the geology of Texas; overview over field trip route, places to be visited, things to be seen, and topics to be discussed. Assignment of cooking groups, tent parties.

1 week prior to trip: Second orientation meeting. Remaining logistic issues. Lecture topics to be covered: Basic principles of field-based research; how to take notes, field hazards and how to avoid them.

1 week after trip: Post-trip gathering. Discussion what we have seen and learned, return of graded questionnaires, discussion of the projects.

End of Semester: Project presentations.

Note: Changes in this course schedule may be necessary and will be announced to the class by the Instructor. The assignments and exams shown are directly related to the Student Learning Outcomes described in Section F.
Attendance/Tardiness
Lecture attendance is not required but it is strongly advised. Poor attendance will result in missed lecture material and may reflect in less than desired class performance and/or unsuccessful class completion.

Late Work and Make-up Exams
There is no provision for making up late and/or missed (lab) work. It is also your responsibility to obtain notes and announcements from fellow students in the event you miss a class.

Extra Credit
None

Cell Phone Use
Not allowed in the class.

Laptop Use
Not allowed in the class.

Food in Class
Not allowed in the class.

Missed Quizzes
Quizzes can only be taken during the scheduled time, except in cases of emergencies. Documented proof is required of such emergencies. There will be no make up exams or quizzes for unscheduled and unexcused absence. Make-up exams cannot be taken after the graded test has been given back to the class.

Participation
Group discussion and collaboration are encouraged during lab exercises.

Others
None

K. COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY POLICIES

- Academic Integrity (University)
  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, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in a failing grade.
• **Classroom/Professional Behavior**
  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.

• **Statement of Civility**
  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.

• **Deadline for Dropping a Course with a Grade of W (University)**
  The grade of W will be assigned to any student officially dropping a course. Please consult with the instructor before you decide to drop to be sure it is the best thing to do. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, visit the Office of the University Registrar for the Course Drop Form that must be submitted. No student is eligible to receive a W without completing the official drop process by this deadline. Please consult the Academic Calendar ([http://www.tamucc.edu/academics/calendar/](http://www.tamucc.edu/academics/calendar/)) for the last day to drop a course.

• **Grade Appeals (College of Science and Engineering)**
  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](http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html), and the College of Science and Engineering Grade Appeals webpage at [http://sci.tamucc.edu/students/GradeAppeal.html](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.

- **Disability Services**
  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 (361) 825-5816 or visit Disability Services 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.

http://disabilityservices.tamucc.edu/

- **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.

L. **OTHER INFORMATION**

- **Academic Advising**
  The College of Science & 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. Meetings are by appointment only; advisors do not take walk-ins. Please call or stop by the Advising Center to check availability and schedule an appointment. The College’s Academic Advising Center is located in Center for Instruction 350 or can be reached at (361) 825-3928.

**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 regularly scheduled lecture periods.