Undergraduate Seminar in Geology: Research in the Geosciences
GEOL 2103.001
Department of Physical and Environmental Sciences
Spring 2020

A. COURSE INFORMATION

Course number/section: GEOL 2103.001
Class meeting time: R 1:30 - 2:20 pm
Class location: BH 127
Course Website: http://bb9.tamucc.edu

B. INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Mohamed Ahmed
Office location: NRC 3101
Office hours: Monday & Wednesday at 2:00 – 4:30 or by appointment
Telephone: (361) 825-3278
e-mail: mohamed.ahmed@tamucc.edu
Appointments: Please email instructor directly for an appointment, or if you have any
questions or concerns.

C. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Catalog Course Description

Introductory level seminar featuring diverse topics and speakers. Focus on current geologic research. In-house as well as external speakers. May not be repeated for credit but attendance in subsequent semesters is highly encouraged. Credit/no credit Offered on sufficient demand.

Extended Course Description

This seminar-style style course is designed to expand awareness of the role and scope of research for geology majors and to guide them in understanding how to prepare for their career. Completion of this course (or GEOL 2102 Undergraduate Seminar - Careers in the Geosciences) is a requirement for geology majors.

D. PREREQUISITES AND COREQUISITES

Prerequisites
None.

Corequisites
None.
E. **REQUIRED TEXTBOOK(S), READINGS AND SUPPLIES**

No text required. Required reading material will be posted on blackboard.

Optional Textbook(s) or Other References
None.

Supplies
None.

F. **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES AND ASSESSMENT**

Assessment is a process used by instructors to help improve learning. Assessment is essential for effective learning because it provides feedback to both students and instructors. A critical step in this process is making clear the course’s student learning outcomes that describe what students are expected to learn to be successful in the course. The student learning outcomes for this course are listed below. By collecting data and sharing it with students on how well they are accomplishing these learning outcomes students can more efficiently and effectively focus their learning efforts. This information can also help instructors identify challenging areas for students and adjust their teaching approach to facilitate learning.

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

1. Demonstrate awareness of the breadth of research in geoscience-related areas;
2. Demonstrate understanding of how research advances geoscience and contributes to university, industry, government, and community growth and improvement.
3. Be able to critically evaluate research reports and literature for key applications and results. Students should understand how research is conducted and reported.

G. **INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND ACTIVITIES**

Instructional methods will include seminar-style weekly meetings featuring speakers from the campus community and beyond, and discussion of assigned readings.

H. **MAJOR COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING**

The student learning outcomes described in Section F will be measured through the assignments listed below. The grade assigned for this course will be “credit” (CR) or “no credit” (NC). In order to receive a grade of CR, students must have earned a total course score of 70% or higher on all assignments, and have demonstrated regular attendance, with 2 or fewer class meetings missed during the entire semester. It is the student’s responsibility to sign in each class meeting.
The course score will be based on the following assignments:

1. **Summaries of Speaker Presentations, due one week following each speaker.** These must include:
   - Speaker’s Name
   - Title of presentation
   - Area of expertise/profession of presenter
   - Summary of presentation (two paragraphs minimum)
   - Reflection on most interesting points learned (list top 3)
   - Questions for presenter (if any)

2. **Reflections on assigned readings, due one week following their assignment** (details to be given in class and will vary depending on topic).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>% of FINAL GRADE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Summaries of weekly presentations</td>
<td>70%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reflections on assigned readings</td>
<td>30%</td>
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</tbody>
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I. **COURSE CONTENT/SCHEDULE**

The following is a tentative list of topics. Speakers will be announced as they are confirmed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>LECTURE TOPIC</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Seminar Overview</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Reading Abstracts and Articles</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Professional Ethics</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Research at TAMUCC</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Research at TAMUCC</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Careers in Energy</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Careers in Energy</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Careers in Water Resources</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Careers in Water Resources</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Careers in Hazard Reduction; Resource Planning and Management</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Careers in Hazard Reduction; Resource Planning and Management</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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</table>
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.

J. COURSE POLICIES

Attendance/Tardiness

Regular attendance and active student participation is critical in order to achieve the learning outcomes. In order to pass this class, students cannot miss more than 2 class meetings during the semester. It is the student’s responsibility to sign in each class meeting to document attendance. Students are expected to arrive to class on time, particularly as they will miss part of a speaker’s presentation. Chronic tardiness will result in a reduction of the overall course score by up to 10%.

Late Work and Make-up Exams

Work is generally due one week after it is assigned. Grades will be reduced by 20% for each day an assignment is late.

Extra Credit
None.

Cell Phone Use
Not allowed.

Laptop Use
Not allowed.

Food in Class
Not allowed.

Missed Exam
There are no exams given in this course.
Participation
Students are encouraged to actively participate in lecture discussion. Generally students who participate more actively are able to learn the material more effectively.

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)**
  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 your academic advisor, the Financial Aid Office, and me, before you decide to drop this course. 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. 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/](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.