GEOL 1103 – Physical Geology Lab Syllabus – Kelsch – Fall 2020
Sul Ross State University, Department of Biological Geological & Physical Sciences

Instructor: Ms. Jesse Kelsch, MS  
Office: WSB 316  Phone: 837-8657  Email: jkelsch@sulross.edu
Online Office Hours: TBD first week of class then posted on class blackboard page  
Class times: 2-3:50 Tues; 4-5:50 Tues; 6-7:50 Wed

Course Purpose:
The objective of this course is to provide the student with an understanding of how the Earth works within the context of SCIENCE, which is a methodical, consistent and unbiased method of gathering facts about the natural world. The student will gain a theoretical and practical foundation of geology through projects that use real data and create inquiry. Topics to be studied include plate tectonics, geologic structures, maps, earthquakes, rocks and minerals, and groundwater hydrology.

Student Learning Outcomes:
Each student will develop the ability to:
1. Apply diagnostic techniques to identify common minerals and rock types
2. Determine the relative ages of rocks and geologic structures using geologic dating principles
3. Identify and evaluate structural features in Earth’s crust such as faults and folds
4. Produce Excel spreadsheets graphing geologic data in a time series
5. Interpret geologic cross sections to demonstrate visualization of subsurface geology
6. Demonstrate the mechanisms and processes that create earthquakes, and how the location and strength of earthquakes are determined
7. Explain and evaluate the relationship between plate tectonics and the formation of mountains, ocean trenches, and earthquake zones

Text and Materials:
REQUIRED Lab Manual: Physical Geology Laboratory Manual by Measures and Mattison (available in the SRSU bookstore) If this class transitions to an online format due to the spread of Covid-19, exercises using online resources will be provided and the lab manual will still be used.

Methods of Evaluation and Grading:
Lab Assignments: There are 12 weeks of assignments to be completed after assigned during the 2-hour lab time each week, plus a midterm practical exam and an online final exam. The lowest lab grade will be dropped from the course grade calculation.

Points: The required projects, quizzes and exams total 600 points:
- 11 graded labs 1100 (100 each)
- Midterm 100
- Final 100

Total pts 1300

Grading: Final course grade will be based on a percentage of the total points as follows:
- 90.00-100% A
- 80.00-89.50% B
- 70.00-79.50% C
- 60.00-69.50% D
- Less than 60.00% F
Relevant Sul Ross State University Policies:

**Academic Integrity:** Academic dishonesty hurts everyone and reduces the value of college degrees. Doing someone else’s work, presenting the ideas and work of others as your own, submitting the same paper for multiple classes, and/or failing to cite your sources when you utilize the ideas of others, are all examples of academic dishonesty. It is your responsibility to read and understand the university’s policy on academic dishonesty in the SRSU Student Handbook, as all violations will be taken seriously and handled through the appropriate university process. The Student Handbook can be found at: https://www.sulross.edu/page/2454/student-handbook (page 80).

In addition, please note that plagiarism detection software will be used in this class for written assignments, as well as monitoring software for course exams.

If you have any questions about this, please ask!

**SRSU Library Services**

The Sul Ross Library offers FREE resources and services to the entire SRSU community. Access and borrow books, articles, and more by visiting the library’s website, library.sulross.edu. Off-campus access requires your LoboID and password. Check out materials using your photo ID. Librarians are a tremendous resource for your coursework and can be reached in person, by email (srsulibrary@sulross.edu), or by phone (432-837-8123).

**Student Accommodations**

Sul Ross State University is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is the student’s responsibility to initiate a request for accessibility services. If you have a disability, find out what your resources are: Students seeking accessibility services must contact Becky Wren in Counseling and Accessibility Services, Ferguson Hall, Room 112. The mailing address is PO Box C-171, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas 79832. Telephone: 432-837-8203.

**Distance Education Statement:** Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university’s academic support services, library resources, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website. Students should submit online assignments through Blackboard or SRSU email, which require secure login information to verify students’ identities and to protect students’ information. The procedures for filing a student complaint are included in the student handbook. Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul Ross are expected to adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. Students in web-based courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website.

**Fall 2020 In-Person Classroom Protocols (Subject to Change)**

1) **Masks:** Face coverings are required indoors and outdoors on SRSU campuses unless you are in a private space or are engaged in an activity for which wearing a covering is impractical. In this class, if a student refuses to wear a mask/wear a mask properly, the student will leave class, and according to SRSU policy, I will be forced to report the student to the Dean of Students office. Please note that a face mask that has an exhalation valve or vent is not acceptable.
2) Assigned Seating: There will be an assigned seating chart for each class to encourage social distancing and to provide information for contact tracing in the event that Covid-19 spreads.

3) Disinfection of Classroom Surfaces: Each person should disinfect their space at the beginning and end of each class meeting. The university has provided disinfectant wipes in our classroom. When you enter the classroom, please take two wipes and use one to clean your space before settling in. Keep the other wipe to use again to clean your space before you leave. Although SRSU will provide access to hand sanitizer at the entrances to classroom buildings, I encourage you to also carry your own sanitizer with you in public.

4) Orderly Dismissal: When class is over, the TA will dismiss students row by row, starting with the row closest to the exit. Each day, I will end class a little early so that you have enough time to wipe down your desk and wait to be dismissed by row. If you are finished with your lab early, you may leave by maintaining a distance of 6 feet between you and other people.

5) Food & Drinks: There will be no eating or drinking in the classroom. If you need to take a sip of your drink during class time, you may leave the room to do so.

6) Paperwork: In order to maintain social distancing and reduce the transmission of germs via paper, all paperwork requiring faculty signatures should be sent as digital documents via email, e.g., athletic schedules, doctor’s notes, SSD forms, etc.

7) Limited in-class interaction: We will do our absolute best to maintain social distancing in the classroom. Please stay 6 feet away from my desk. The TA will be happy to answer general questions during class time, doing his best to answer using the board at the front of the classroom. But I recommend that you address personal questions virtually.

8) Travel: If you have traveled internationally, you are required to self-quarantine for 14 days upon your return. If you have travelled locally or out of state, you are required to self-quarantine for 14 days only if the local destination or state you traveled to is under a CDC COVID-19 travel advisory.

9) Illness: Students who are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, have been diagnosed with COVID-19, or have been in close contact with a person who has been diagnosed with COVID-19, MAY NOT COME TO IN-PERSON SESSIONS.

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**Semester Schedule: Lab topics and exam weeks:**

*This calendar is subject to change with notice at the instructor’s discretion.*

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<thead>
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<th>Week of:</th>
<th>Lab Topic:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24-Aug</td>
<td>Minerals</td>
<td>12-Oct</td>
<td>Plate Tectonics</td>
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<tr>
<td>31-Aug</td>
<td>Igneous Rocks</td>
<td>19-Oct</td>
<td>Geologic Structures, Geologic Maps</td>
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<tr>
<td>7-Sep</td>
<td>Metamorphic Rocks</td>
<td>26-Oct</td>
<td>Geologic Time</td>
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<td>14-Sep</td>
<td>Sedimentary Rocks</td>
<td>2-Nov</td>
<td>Rivers</td>
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<td>21-Sep</td>
<td><strong>Lab Practical Exam</strong></td>
<td>9-Nov</td>
<td>Ground Water</td>
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<td>28-Sep</td>
<td>topographic maps</td>
<td>16-Nov</td>
<td>Climate Change</td>
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<td>5-Oct</td>
<td>Earthquakes</td>
<td>23-Nov</td>
<td><strong>Online lab final exam</strong></td>
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