GEOL - Geology

Courses numbered 100 to 299 = lower-division; 300 to 499 = upper-division; 500 to 799 = undergraduate/graduate.

GEOL 102. Earth Science and the Environment (4).
3 Classroom hours (for the 3 credit hour option); or 3 Classroom hours, 2 Lab hours (for the 4 credit hour option). General education introductory course. Studies the processes that shape the Earth's physical environment, the impact of human activities on modifying the environment, use and abuse of natural resources including soil, water and air, waste disposal, and natural environmental hazards. Course includes diversity content. GEOL 102 (4) 3 Classroom hours; 2L is recommended for students desiring general education credit for a natural sciences laboratory experience. Credit not allowed in both GEOL 102 and 111.

GEOL 111. General Geology (4).
3 Classroom hours; 2 Lab hours. General education introductory course. An overview of the Earth, the concepts of its origin, composition, materials, structure, landforms and history, and natural processes operating to create the Earth's physical environment. May require field trips into the earth laboratory. Credit not allowed in both GEOL 102 and 111.

GEOL 150B. Introduction to Meteorology (0.5).
Covers basic concepts of meteorology, otherwise known as atmospheric science; in particular, the interrelationships and distributions of temperature, pressure, wind and moisture. The organization of weather systems and storms are presented, including a thorough description of severe storms. Students are given the capability to follow the progress of weather systems via sources of readily-available data on the internet, as they learn to read and understand weather maps, soundings, radar images and satellite photos. Exercises related to real example cases provide practice applying the basic concepts. Opportunities for students to share personal experiences with weather phenomena are also given.

GEOL 150C. Introduction to Geology: Understanding Earth (0.5).
Geology is the study of the earth — its place in the universe, its formation, its history, and what makes it special. During this introductory course, students learn about the science of geology and how the work of geologists impacts everyday lives.

GEOL 235. Meteorology (3).
General education advanced further study course (natural sciences). Cross-listed as GEOG 235. An introductory study of the atmosphere and its properties and the various phenomena of weather. Includes a brief survey of important principles of physical, dynamic, synoptic and applied meteorology. Does not apply toward a major or minor in geology. Requires field trips at the option of the instructor. Prerequisite: instructor's consent.

GEOL 300. Energy, Resources and Environment (3).
General education advanced issues and perspectives course. Studies the dependence of human beings on the Earth's metallic, nonmetal, industrial mineral, energy, soil and water resources; the methods for their discovery and recovery; their uses, and the influence of economics, politics and social institutions in determining how exploitation affects the natural environment and our standard of living. Course includes diversity content. Prerequisite: any introductory course in biology, chemistry, geology or physics.

GEOL 302. Earth & Space Sciences (3).
2 Classroom hours; 2 Lab hours. General education advanced further study course. A general survey of the physical environment, including elements of geology, geography, meteorology, climatology, oceanography and astronomy. May require field trips.

GEOL 310. Oceanography (3).
General education advanced further study course. Geologic origin of oceans basins and sea water; dynamics of waves, tides and currents; physical and chemical properties of sea water, diversity of life in the oceans, economic potential, law of the sea, and the effect of people on the marine environment.

GEOL 312. Historical Geology (4).
2 Classroom hours; 4 Lab hours. General education advanced further study course. Systematic review of earth history and its preservation in the rock record using field evidence for sequences of physical, biological and tectonic events in selected areas. Also includes the origin and evolution of life. Field trips required. Prerequisite: GEOL 102 or 111 or 302 or equivalent.

GEOL 320. Mineralogy and Optical Mineralogy (4).
1 Classroom hour; 6 Lab hours. Elementary crystallography. A study of the origin, composition and structure of the rock-forming minerals with laboratory emphasis on recognition of their typical forms, occurrences, associations and identification, and optical recognition via thin-section petrography. May require field trips. Prerequisites: GEOL 102 or 111; CHEM 103 or 211; MATH 112 or 123.

GEOL 324. Petrology & Petrography (3).
1 Classroom hour; 4 Lab hours. The origin, distribution, occurrence, description and classifications of igneous, metamorphic and sedimentary rocks with laboratory emphasis on their hand-sample and optical (thin-section petrographic) recognition. Prerequisite: GEOL 320.

GEOL 430. Field Studies in Geology (2-6).
Off-campus, systematic field study in a selected area of geologic significance. Course is given upon demand and may be repeated for credit when locality and content differ. Where appropriate, travel, lodging and board costs are charged.

GEOL 481. Cooperative Education (1-6).
Provides practical field experience, under academic supervision, that complements and enhances the student's academic program. Graded Cr/NCr. Prerequisite: departmental consent.

GEOL 526. Sedimentary Geology (3).
2 Classroom hours; 2 Lab hours. Origin, classification, primary structures and physiochemical processes controlling deposition of sedimentary rocks. Reviews diagenesis of carbonate rocks and evaporites. Includes a survey of modern and ancient sedimentary depositional environments and petrographic study of sedimentary rocks in thin sections. May require field trips. Prerequisite: GEOL 102 (with lab) or 111.

GEOL 540. Field Map Methods (3).
6 Lab hours. Field mapping methods with special reference to use of level, compass, barometer, alidade and airphotos. Field trips required. Prerequisite: GEOL 102 (with lab) or 111 or GEOL/GEOG 201.

GEOL 544. Structural Geology (3).
2 Classroom hours; 2 Lab hours. Stress-strain theory and mechanics of rock deformation, description, and genesis of secondary structural features in crustal rocks resulting from diastrophism, elements of global tectonics, and laboratory solution of geologic problems in three dimensions and time. May require field trips and field problems. Prerequisites: MATH 112 or 123; GEOL 312; and GEOL 324 or 526.

GEOL 552. Physical Stratigraphy (3).
2 Classroom hours; 2 Lab hours. Description, classification, methods of correlation and determination of relative ages of stratigraphic rock units; stratigraphic principles and practice, importance and use of biostratigraphy, the nature of cyclic sedimentation and controls on deposition, elements of sequency stratigraphy, measurement and
correlation of stratigraphic sections in outcrops. Requires field trips. Prerequisites: GEOL 312, 526.

**GEOL 560. Geomorphology and Land Use (3).**
Identification of landforms and their genesis, processes producing landforms, the influence of geomorphology in aspects of natural hazards such as landslides, floods, earthquakes and volcanic activity; soil erosion, drainage basin modification, coastal and desert environments, mineral resource exploitation, and their effects on humans; importance of these influences in environmental management and land-use planning. Prerequisite: GEOL 111 or GEOL 102 or GEOL/GEOG 201.

**GEOL 564. Remote Sensing Interpretation (3).**
2 Classroom hours; 2 Lab hours. Introduces interpretation techniques for most types of images acquired by remotely positioned means. Physical principles that control various remote sensing processes using the electromagnetic spectra are applied to geology, land use planning, geography, resource evaluation and environmental problems. Derivative maps generated from a variety of images. May require field trips. Prerequisite: GEOL 102 or 111 or GEOL/GEOG 201.

**GEOL 570. Biogeology (3).**
2 Classroom hours; 2 Lab hours. *General education advanced further study course.* Systematic survey of major fossil biogeological materials, analysis of the origin and evolution of life, and paleoecological interpretation of ancient environments and climates. Includes handlens and binocular microscopic examination of major fossil biogeological materials. Includes application of analyzed fossil data to the solution of problems in bioeocronology, paleoecology, paleoclimatology and paleogeography. Cites examples from fields of invertebrate, vertebrate and micropaleontology, and palynology. May require museum and field trips. Prerequisite: GEOL 312.

**GEOL 574. Special Studies in Paleontology (3).**
2 Classroom hours; 2 Lab hours. *General education advanced further study course.* A systematic study in selected areas of biogeology and paleontology. Content differs, upon demand, to provide indepth analysis in the fields of: (A) invertebrate paleontology, (B) vertebrate paleontology, (C) micropaleontology, (D) palynology, and (E) paleoecology. Gives appropriate laboratory instruction in the systematics, taxonomy and biogeological relationships within the selected fields listed. May require field trips. Repeatable for credit to cover all five areas listed.

**GEOL 621. Geochemical Cycling (3).**
Capstone course. The geochemistry of earth materials and the important geochemical processes; cycles operating on and within the atmosphere, hydrosphere and lithosphere through time; anthropogenic effects on these cycles today. Prerequisites: GEOL 102 (with lab) or GEOL 111 and CHEM 211; or instructor's consent.

**GEOL 630. Field Studies in Geology (2-6).**
Off-campus, systematic field study in a selected area of geological significance. Course given upon demand, repeatable for credit when locality and/or content differ. Where appropriate, travel, lodging and board costs are charged. Prerequisite: instructor's consent.

**GEOL 630B. Tropical Marine Environment (3).**
Off-campus, systematic field study in a selected area of geological significance. Course given upon demand, repeatable for credit when locality and/or content differ. Where appropriate, travel, lodging and board costs are charged. Prerequisite: instructor's consent.

**GEOL 640. Field Geology (6).**
Capstone course. Field investigation of sedimentary, igneous and metamorphic rock units and their structures. Includes the application of mapping methods in solving geologic problems. Held at an off-campus field camp for five weeks (including weekends). Preparation of geologic columns, sections, maps and an accompanying report are due on campus during the sixth week. Prerequisite: GEOL 324, 540, 544, 552.

**GEOL 650. Geohydrology (3).**
2 Classroom hours; 2 Lab hours. Capstone course. The hydrologic cycle, physical and chemical properties of water; fluid flow through permeable media, exploration for and evaluation of groundwater, water quality and pollution, and water law. Prerequisites: GEOL 552, MATH 242 and 243; or instructor's consent.

**GEOL 657. Earth Science Instructional Methods (3).**
Practice in teaching an introductory course in the earth sciences. Developing and presenting the latest scientific laboratory techniques and evaluating their effectiveness. May be taken more than once if content and objectives differ. Prerequisite: senior standing and department chairperson's permission.

**GEOL 678. Geologic Perspectives on Climatic Change (3).**
Capstone course. Modern climate and climatic changes and analysis of climatic deterioration; systematic study of geologic evidence of climate change through time. Emphasizes theoretical causes, feedback mechanisms and recognition of effects on climactic perturbations in the rock record. Prerequisites: GEOL 312, 526.

**GEOL 680. Geologic Resources and the Environment (3).**
2 Classroom hours; 2 Lab hours. Occurrence and origin of metallic and nonmetallic economic mineral deposits, laboratory examination of ores and industrial minerals. Occurrence and supply, regeneration and future demand for water and soil resources, and fossil and nuclear fuels. Studies environmental aspects of resource exploitation and use, generation and disposal of waste, environmental hazards, and reclamation. May require field trips. Prerequisite: GEOL 324.

**GEOL 682. Petroleum Geology (3).**
2 Classroom hours; 2 Lab hours. The origin, migration and accumulation of oil and gas in the earth's crust; reservoir trap types in common hydrocarbon fields, origin and types of porosity systems, and distribution of world petroleum supplies. Introduces subsurface study techniques. May require field trips. Prerequisites: GEOL 526, 552.

**GEOL 684. Methods of Subsurface Analysis (2).**
1 Classroom hour; 2 Lab hours. Methods of remotely logging and describing the geologic occurrence of subsurface strata; characterization of subsurface strata, including laboratory analysis of recovered subsurface samples; application to petroleum geology, mineral resource evaluation and environmental geology. Prerequisites: GEOL 312, 526, 552; or instructor's consent.

**GEOL 690. Special Studies Geology (1-3).**
Systematic study in selected areas of geology. Offered on demand; repeatable for credit when content differs. Requires laboratory work or field trips (instructor's option). Prerequisite: instructor's consent.

**GEOL 690AO. History of Geology (3).**
The course examines the historical development of Earth science from prehistoric to modern times. The course analyzes the various techniques of data collection and interpretation that were used throughout history.

**GEOL 690AP. Petroleum Engineering: An Introduction for Geoscientists (3).**
An introduction to the theory and application of petroleum engineering to oil and gas exploration and development. Oriented to students with a geology or geoscience background.

**GEOL 698. Independent Study in Geology (1-3).**
Independent study on special problems in selected areas of geology: (a) general, (b) mineralogy, (c) petrology, (d) structural, (e) paleontology, (f) economic geology, (g) sedimentation, (i) stratigraphy, (j)
geophysics, and (k) petroleum. Requires a written final report. Prerequisite: consent of sponsoring faculty.

GEOL 720. Geochemistry (3).
The chemistry of natural aqueous solutions and their interaction with minerals and rocks; thermodynamics and kinetics of reactions; emphasizes application to sedimentary environments and environmental problems. Requires some laboratory work. Prerequisites: GEOL 324 and CHEM 212 or instructor's consent.

GEOL 724. Soils (3).
Geologic analysis of soil types, their formation, occurrence and mineralogy; soil management and conservation, environmental aspects of soil occurrence including stability studies, pollution and reclamation.

GEOL 726. Carbonate Sedimentology (3).
2 Classroom hours; 2 Lab hours. The origin and genetic description of carbonate particles, sediments and rocks, mineralogy and textural classifications, depositional environments in carbonate rocks and analysis of modern and ancient depositional system. May require field trips. Prerequisites: GEOL 526, 552 or equivalents.

GEOL 727. Carbonate Diagenesis (3).
2 Classroom hours; 2 Lab hours. Analyzes diagenesis of carbonate sediments and rocks. Includes mineralogenic stability in natural waters, meteoric, marine and deep-burial diagenesis, dolomitization processes and products, trace-elements and isotopes diagenetic tools, cathodoluminescence and X-ray diffraction studies of carbonates; origin and porosity. Prerequisite: GEOL 726 or instructor's consent.

GEOL 740. Basin Analysis (3).
A practical course in analysis of petroleum-bearing or other sedimentary basins; emphasizes detailed subsurface mapping to document depositional, tectonic and burial history of sedimentary basins; subsurface lithologic and geochemical sample analysis and evolution of sedimentary facies systems and hydrocarbons maturation history. Includes compilation of existing data to determine geologic evolution of basins. Prerequisites: GEOL 682, 684 or instructor's consent.

GEOL 745. Advanced Stratigraphy (3).
Analysis of stratigraphic sequences at the local to global scales in terms of sequence stratigraphic concepts and high-resolution interpretation of depositional sequences (from outcrop and subsurface data); seismic sequence stratigraphy, and significance of unconformities in sequence identification and development; local to global correlation of sequences and sea level history through time; cratonic sequences of North America. Required seven-day field trip. Prerequisites: GEOL 312, 526, 726.

GEOL 751. Advanced Geohydrology (3).
Integrations of practical and theoretical coverage of subsurface fluid flow as applied to shallow aquifers. Covers the mass transport in both the saturated and vadose zones as well as the occurrence and movement of nonaqueous fluids. Covers groundwater quality, sources of groundwater contamination, retardation of contaminants, retardation and attenuation of dissolved solids, and the response of inorganic and organic substances to subsurface aqueous and framework chemistries. Computer simulation models used whenever practical along with detailed analysis of case histories, including those related to environmental geoscience. Prerequisites: GEOL 650, 681, MATH 344, or instructor's consent.

GEOL 752. Climatic Evolution of Earth (3).
Basics of climatology and paleoclimatology, and recognition of paleoclimatic indicators in the rock record. Climatic changes at different scales in Earth history and possible causes, and nature of climactic records. Roles of climate change on the evolution of Earth's biosphere, hydrosphere, atmosphere and lithosphere. Field trip(s) may be required. Prerequisite: GEOL 721, graduate standing, or instructor's consent.

GEOL 760. Exploration Geophysics (3).
Introduces the theory and application of geophysical techniques for hydrocarbon, mineral and groundwater prospecting. Includes use of seismic techniques, instrumentation for acquisition on land and sea, seismic processing, structural and stratigraphic modeling, 3-D seismic exploration, and seismic refraction techniques. Prerequisites: completion of geology undergraduate math and physics requirements; MATH 344 or 555; GEOL 324, 544, instructor's consent.

GEOL 781. Advanced Numerical Geology (3).
Involves practical implementation of algorithms and computer code. Includes the analysis of multivariate techniques and the development of the computer/algorithm skills needed to handle very large databases. Covers standard statistical approaches to data analysis, treatment of applied linear algebra and matrix theory, the application of linear and nonlinear discriminate analysis, various factor analytic techniques, hard and fuzzy clustering, linear and nonlinear unmixing analysis, and other forms of data modeling. Prerequisites: GEOL 681 or equivalent, competence in one or more high level computer languages, MATH 344 or 555, and instructor's consent.

GEOL 795. Earth and Space Physics (3).
Cross-listed as PHYS 795. An introduction to the geosciences and astrophysics of the solar system. Topics include the surface, interior and atmospheres of the planets with a comparative planetology approach, and the sun-planet system including solar physics and the effect of the sun on the earth's environment and geologic history. Prerequisites: PHYS 313-314, and MATH 242, or EEPS 721, or instructor's consent.