

University of Arkansas – Fort Smith
5210 Grand Avenue
P. O. Box 3649
Fort Smith, AR 72913–3649
479–788–7000
General Syllabus

GEOL 1251 Physical Geology Laboratory

Credit Hours: 1

Lecture Hours: 0

Lab Hours: 2

Prerequisite or Co-requisite: GEOL 1253 Physical Geology

Effective Catalogue: 2020-2021

I. Course Information:

A. Catalog Description

Application of laboratory methods to solve problems pertaining to mineral and rock identification, relative and radiometric dating, plate tectonics, volcanoes, earthquakes, geologic structures, and groundwater.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter:

Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Identify common minerals, igneous rocks, sedimentary rocks, and metamorphic rocks.
2. Identify the fundamental tenets of plate tectonic theory and the evidence that supports the theory.
3. Determine the Richter magnitude of an earthquake and locate earthquake epicenters using seismogram data.
4. Explain how porosity and permeability of rocks affect groundwater movement and how groundwater movement is determined using well data and topographic maps.
5. Apply the principles of relative dating and radioactive dating to determine relative and absolute ages of rocks and other geologic features.
6. Identify geologic structures and know the type of stress inferred by them.
7. Explain the origin and diversity of magma generated in different tectonic settings.

8. Explain how chemical composition and gas content determine the physical properties and explosivity of lava, which in turn leads to a variety of volcano types.
9. Describe the process of mountain building in different tectonic settings.
10. Describe the nature and age of major events in geologic time: earth's formation and differentiation, formation of continental crust, first appearance of life and order of appearance of major life forms, oxygenation of earth's atmosphere, formation and break up of Pangaea and other supercontinents.

B. University Learning Outcomes (ULO)

This course will enhance student abilities in the following areas.

Analytical Skills

Critical Thinking Skills

Students will identify a problem or issue and will research, evaluate, and compare information from varying sources in order to evaluate authority, accuracy, recency, and bias relevant to the problems/issues. The student will generate solutions/analysis of problems/issues evaluated and will assess and justify the solutions and/or analysis.

Communication Skills (written and oral)

Students will communicate proficiently. The student will compose coherent documents appropriate to the intended audience and effectively communicate orally in a public setting.

Ethical Decision Making

Students will model ethical decision-making processes. The students will identify ethical dilemmas and affected parties and will apply ethical frameworks to resolve a variety of ethical dilemmas.

III. Major Course Topics:

- A. Minerals
- B. Igneous rocks
- C. Sedimentary rocks
- D. Metamorphic rocks
- E. Groundwater and surface water flow
- F. Glaciers
- G. Earthquakes
- H. Geologic structures
- I. Plate tectonic theory
- J. Relative dating
- K. Absolute dating
- L. Geologic Time