

Southern Connecticut State University
Earth Science 398/535 Geological Representation

Course Syllabus, Spring Semester 2003-2004

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Office: Morrill Hall, Room 214-A
Office Hours: MWF 11:00am-12:00pm; MW 9:00-10:00pm, or by appointment

Lecture / Laboratory: Morrill Hall, Room 008; MW, 2:00-3:50pm

Course Description: This course is designed to expose Earth Science majors to various computer applications used in the representation and analysis of geological data. Students should have an elementary knowledge of general geology and basic computer skills. A thorough discussion of geologic computations and the nature and methods of interpretation of various types of geologic data will be covered in class.

Prerequisites: ESC 200 Principles of Geology, or permission of instructor

Computer Access: Students must have an active university computer account (MySCSU) and will need to purchase some media for the storage and transfer of large data files (Zip disks, CD-RW disks).

Modes of Learning: Class lectures and discussions, in-class demonstrations, reading assignments, homework problems/assignments, hands-on laboratory activities, cooperative learning within a group format.

Assignments and Examinations: The majority of student assessment for this course will come from a series of assignments including a paper, oral presentation, poster presentation and creation of a web site. There will also be one two-hour comprehensive final exam that will include a combination of short answer and essay questions covering lecture materials, lab materials, and reading assignments. If a legitimate and unavoidable conflict arises such that you need to miss an exam or hand in an assignment late, you must contact me (e-mail, voice mail, phone, message to Dept. Secretary, or written note) at least 24 hours *prior* to the scheduled date to be eligible for a make-up. In emergency situations you must contact me as soon as reasonably possible. All excuses must be appropriately documented. If the university cancels class on a exam-day or the due-date for an assignment as a result of weather or other unforeseen emergency, the exam will be held during the next regular class meeting.

Grading:

Attendance/participation	15%	Web site	10%
Paper	15%	Lab assignments	10%
Poster Presentation	15%	Final Exam	20%
Oral Presentation	15%		

Students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities are welcome to enroll in this course. Those wishing to receive accommodations in this class will need to make an appointment with the Disability Resource Center located in Engleman Hall room C-16 to arrange for approved accommodations. Please discuss these accommodations with me during the first week of class, if possible. If you have other special needs, such as emergency medical information, or arrangements in case the building must be evacuated please feel free to discuss these issues with me.

Class Policies:

- Attendance at all lectures and labs is mandatory. Attendance will be taken at each class meeting.
- All exams, lab work, and homework are to be completed individually unless specifically noted by the instructor.
- Coursework must be turned in on-time. Late work will not be accepted.
- No "Extra Credit" will be given.
- Students are expected to behave in a manner that is consistent with the Student Code of Conduct as outlined within the Universities Student Handbook.
- This course involves use of expensive laboratory/computer equipment. Damage of equipment resulting from misuse or abuse will constitute grounds for immediate administrative withdrawal from the course.
- Cell phones must be turned off during class (both lecture and lab). If you have an emergency situation that requires access to a cell phone, please discuss your situation with me.

Course Outline

Week	Dates	Topics	Assignments Due
1	Jan. 26–30	SCSU Online Resources Library Resources in the Earth Sciences	
2	Feb 2-6	Word processing (MS Word) Citations in Geological literature	
3	Feb 9-13	Spread Sheets (MS Excel) Friday, Feb 13, No Class	
4	Feb 16-20	Monday, Feb 16, No Class	
5	Feb 23-27	Bitmap Graphics (Corel Photopaint) Scanners, Digital Cameras	
6	Mar 1-5	Vector based graphics (Corel Draw)	
7	Mar 8-12	Poster Presentation (Corel Draw)	First Draft Paper due
8	Mar 15-19		Poster Pres. due
9	Mar 22–26	Spring Break, Mar 22-26, No Class	
10	Mar 29 – Apr 2	Web Page Design (MS Frontpage)	
11	Apr 5-9		
12	Apr 12-16	GPS/GIS (ESRI ArcExplorer)	
13	Apr 19-23	Presentation Graphics (MS Powerpoint)	Web Site due
14	Apr 26–30		
15	May 3 – 7	Oral Presentations	Oral Pres. due
16	May 10-14	Oral Presentations Friday May 10, reading or make-up day	Final Paper due
17	May 17–21	Final Exam Week Comprehensive Final Exam Wednesday, May 19, 12:45 am-2:45 pm	

Note: This syllabus is meant to be a guide to the topics that will be covered in this course. Coverage of individual topics and exam dates may be adjusted during the semester, any changes will be announced in class.