



Course Syllabus: Field Methods
McCoy College of Science, Mathematics, & Engineering
GEOS 3824 Section x40
Summer II, 2020

Contact Information

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Course Description

The course is a formal introduction to field work, and incorporates elements of geophysical surveying, geomorphological assessment, and geologic measurement and mapping. This course will foster important problem-solving proficiencies. The class introduces students to orienteering and collecting field observations on subsurface structure, landforms, lithology, and stratigraphy. Students will acquire and analyze data, comparing techniques in a growing understanding of geoscience investigation of their surroundings.

Instructional Materials

Students will need hand lens, hammer, field notebooks, ruler, protractor, calculator, colored pens, drafting pencils, ink pens, and camera (phone is acceptable where suited). Students need to have resources that permit access to D2L and Zoom.

Student Handbook

Refer to: <https://msutexas.edu/student-life/assets/files/handbook.pdf>

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct.
[Student Handbook 2019-20](#)

Grading

Course Grade – Grading will be compiled for listed activity.

Table 1: Points allocated to each assignment – You can change table information but will need to use table Tool if you add more columns or rows. Do not leave any blanks in table. Follow instructions listed under Course Schedule.

Assignments	Points
Geophysics	30
Geomorphology	30
Geologic mapping	30
Synthesis paper	10
Total	100

Table 2: Total points for final grade.

Grade	Points
A	90
B	80 to 89
C	70 to 79
D	60 to 69
F	Less than 60

Homework

Each component has a detailed assignment. You must complete the assignment by the due date. Submission will be handled through D2L

Synthesis paper

Following completion of all three projects, you need to prepare a paper with eight pages of double-spaced, 10 point text, in which you compare and contrast the three focus segments of this class. First draft due Sunday, Aug 2, 5 PM. Final draft due Aug 5 at 5PM. Style should follow that of the GSA guide to authors: https://www.geosociety.org/GSA/Publications/Info_Services/Author_Info/gsa/pubs/geology/home.aspx

- The paper should have detailed abstract explaining the methodology, results and findings
- The table should include four figures (one for each segment, and one that provides a synthesis), each on a single page exclusive of the text, which is properly captioned.
- The paper should contain one table.
- A good paper should summarize each segment prior to making comparisons. That means you should start writing after you finish the first segment.
- Note: “first draft” means a polished draft that is complete and has been subject to your own review and rewrite. It is to be elegantly written, and free of grammatical and spelling errors.

Extra Credit

Given the short duration and strong focus, there is unlikely to be any extra credit.

Late Work

Short class – no late work. Get it in on time or else.

Make Up Work/Tests

Provisional permission to make up work, and only with advanced notice.

Important Dates

Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" July 23

Refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructors.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all meetings of this class.

Online Computer Requirements

Taking an online or hybrid class requires you to have access to a computer (with Internet access) to complete and upload your assignments. It is your responsibility to have (or have access to) a working computer in this class.

Assignments and tests are due by the due date, and personal computer technical difficulties will not be considered reason for the instructor to allow students extra time to submit assignments, tests, or discussion postings. Computers are available on campus in various areas of the buildings as well as the Academic Success Center. There are many places to access your class! Our online classes can be accessed from any computer in the world which is connected to the internet. Contact your instructor immediately upon having computer trouble. If you have technical difficulties in the course, there is also a student helpdesk available to you. The college cannot work directly on student computers due to both liability and resource limitations however they are able to help you get connected to our online services. For help, log into [D2L](#).

Instructor Class Policies

Field components require suitable field bag, clothing, and footwear. Two quarts of water per day is mandatory. Tick repellent, sunscreen and wide-brimmed hat are strongly recommended. Any proximal interaction, including supervision or collegial interaction in the field, requires a cloth face covering.

The SARS-Cov2 virus is a threat to the execution of this class. We will replicate conditions that have been useful to healthcare workers.

Rules:

- Stay home if you or anyone in your immediate dwelling is ill.
- You must pass a daily self-assessment whenever you engage in non-remote work – reporting the absence of fever or other symptoms.
- Wash hands for 20 seconds whenever possible. Use hand sanitizer at least once per hour.
- Maintain 6 feet distance when possible.
- Masks are to be worn whenever in close proximity or in closed spaces.
- Individuals should be each assigned equipment, when possible.
- Wipe equipment disinfecting cleanser before exchanging users.

Although portions of this class will be executed over several days in the field, travel will be short and we will return home each night.

Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. HOWEVER, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exist in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

Services for Students With Disabilities

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

College Policies

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by WATC. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

Grade Appeal Process

Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [Undergraduate Catalog](#)

Notice

Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

TABLE 1. COURSE SCHEDULE AND TOPICS

Day	Date	Time	Topic	Location	Prof.
Mon-Thurs	July 6-9	3 hrs	Channel Hydraulics Intro	D2L-Youtube	Lisenby
Friday	July 10	8 AM	Introduction/ Surveying	Bolin Hall/Lake Wichita Park	
Saturday	July 11	8 AM	Surveying	Lake Wichita Park	
Sunday	July 12	8 AM	Lab Day	BO 125	
Mon-Thurs	July 13-16		Equipment Setup and planning	Location TBA	Katumwehe
Thursday	July 16	5 PM	Lisenby project due	BO 102a	
Friday	July 17		Techniques & Targets	Location TBA	
Saturday	July 18		Intro to Mag.	Location TBA	
Sunday	July 19		Intro to Resistivity	Location TBA	
Mon-Thurs	July 20-23		Geologic mapping info	D2L-youtube	Price
Thursday	July 23	5 PM	Katumwehe Project due	Location TBA	
Friday	July 24		Introduction	Wichitas	
Saturday	July 25		Mapping Day	Wichitas	
Sunday	July 26		Mapping Day	Wichitas	
Mon-Thurs	July 27-30		Synthesis paper instruction		
Thursday	July 30	5 PM	Price Project due	D2L	
Sunday	August 2	5 PM	Draft Synthesis paper due	D2L	
Wednesday	August 5	5 PM	Final synthesis paper due	D2L	