

Sedimentology and Stratigraphy (GEOS 4534)

Kimbell School of Geosciences

McCoy College of Science, Mathematics, and Engineering

Fall, 2026

General Course Information

- Lecture Meetings: Monday, Wednesday, Friday | 9:00 am – 9:50 am | Bolin Hall 125
- Laboratory Meetings: Wednesday | 1:00 pm – 2:50 pm | Bolin Hall 125
- Course D2L Site: We will only use the main course site for the lecture section, there will be no content in the laboratory section site.
 - [Stratigraphic Concepts & Applications D2L Site](#)

Instructor Information

- Dr. Steven J. Rosscoe | steven.rosscoe@msutexas.edu | 940.397.4448
Office Hours: MWF 8-8:50 am, 10-10:50 am | Bolin Hall 101A
Virtual Office Hours: M 10-10:50 am, By Appointment | [Zoom Office Hours Link](#)
- Graduate Teaching Assistant: Audrey Lane | aklane0919@my.msutexas.edu

Course Description

Analysis of depositional environments based on the physical and chemical formation of sediment, the physics of sediment transport, and post-depositional diagenetic changes. Also includes the study and interpretation of stratified sedimentary rocks, including their identification, description, and modes of origin. Fundamental principles of lithostratigraphic and sequence stratigraphic analysis, mapping, and correlation are also presented.

Course Learning Objectives

The successful completion of this course will be evaluated around the following course learning objectives. Each of these course learning objectives include aspects of both content knowledge and skills development. Students will:

1. Investigate the major processes that dominate sedimentary geology including: weathering, erosion, transport, deposition, and diagenesis.
2. Apply stratigraphic principles for the interpretation of the sedimentary rock record and for the correlation of those rocks around the globe.
3. Develop laboratory and field techniques to apply to the description, identification, and interpretation of sediments, sedimentary rocks, and strata.
4. Develop laboratory, field, and technological skills for the collection, analysis, and presentation of sedimentary data.

Instructional Materials

There is a required textbook for this course. ***You will be required to use specific software during the course.** In addition, there will be a few field trips in this course and there is certain field gear and equipment you should consider investing in, if you are planning to be a geologist.

Required Textbook

The following textbook should be purchased, kept, and loved for the rest of your life. Even if you don't plan on being a sedimentary geologist, these rocks cover much of the surface, you aren't going to be able to get away from them!

- **Prothero, D. R. and Schwab, F. 2014.** Sedimentary Geology: An Introduction to Sedimentary Rocks and Stratigraphy, 3rd Edition. W. H. Freeman and Company, 593 p. ISBN 9781429231558

Suggested Textbook Resources

While the Prothero and Schwab textbook is excellent, the book I learned from is still the best out there, but it is out of print. If you're leaning in the direction of sedimentary geology, find a cheap used edition, it's an excellent resource, with great thoughts on conglomerates.

- **Boggs, Sam. 2012.** Principles of Sedimentology and Stratigraphy, Fifth Edition. Pearson Prentice Hall. 585 p. ISBN 9780321643186

If you haven't taken Mineralogy and Petrology yet, I'll provide a PDF copy of my Historical Geology Lab Manual in D2L, so you can get a refresher in minerals, rocks, and more.

- **Rosscoe, Steven J. 2026.** Historical Geology Laboratory Manual. Kimbell School of Geoscience, Midwestern State University. 96 p. PDF

Required Software Applications

- Microsoft Office: Word, PowerPoint [Free Access to Microsoft Office 365](#)
 - Required for completion of laboratory activities.
 - Full versions are better – Bolin 105 is available to you with these installed.
- PDF Reader
 - PDFs are used to provide some course materials; a browser PDF reader or Adobe Acrobat will be necessary to view them.
- Adobe Illustrator
 - For the assignments where it is required, Adobe Illustrator is installed on the PC in Bolin Hall 113a. You will have to share access as it is an expensive license.

Field Equipment

The following equipment is the kind of gear that is essential for any geologist. At a minimum, you will need to purchase a field notebook, if you do not already have one. It is highly recommended you get a rock hammer and your own safety colors; I don't have many extra hammers and communal safety vests are communal and geology is very sweaty.

- Rite-In-The-Rain Field Notebook (some options listed below)
 - [3 pack of soft covers \(\\$17.95\) from Amazon](#)
 - [1 hardcover \(\\$25.95\) from Amazon](#)
- Rock Hammer: [Standard 22 oz. Estwing Rock Pick from Amazon \(\\$31.77\)](#)
- Safety Colors: I have both t-shirts and a vest; I usually wear them both!
 - [Unisex Vests @ Amazon \(\\$6.49\)](#): Many colors but stick with yellow or orange.
 - [Simple Safety T-Shirt @ Amazon, 2 pack \(\\$9.44\)](#)

- Metric Measuring Tape (or Standard/Metric Combo): [Amazon Basics Combo \(\\$8.39\)](#)
- Magnifying Lens (AKA Hand Lens or Loop): [Hastings Triplet 10X \(\\$12.99\)](#)

Grading Information

The formal grade for this course is determined by your performance on examinations, project papers, lab activities, and field trip participation and related activities. Your grade is calculated by dividing the points you earned during the semester by completing assignments by the total number of points possible in the semester. The letter grade for the course follows the traditional university style.

Table 1: Allocation of Points by Assignment Type

The table below shows the total number of points for each major category of assignment that are possible this semester. For more details about the assignments see the section for that assignment in this portion of the syllabus.

Assignments (Quantity)	Points
Examinations (4)	400
Project Papers (2)	100
Lab Activities (12)	240
Field Trips and Post Trip Activities	110
Total Points	850

Table 2: Points, Percentage, and Letter Grade Values

The table on the following page shows the point-value and percentage-value required to reach a particular letter grade in the course. The table reflects the optimal running of the course where there are no missed days or activities. The instructor reserves the right to change the point distributions to reflect such changes. The percentage requirements will remain unchanged throughout the semester. Percentage grades are rounded to the nearest whole percent.

Grade	Points	Percentage
A	765 and up	90% and up
B	680 to 764	80% to 89%
C	595 to 679	70% to 79%
D	510 to 594	60% to 69%
F	Less than 510	59% or less

Examination Information

During the semester, there will be three lecture examinations and one laboratory examination. Each will be worth 100 points. Each examination will consist of written response questions that will require complete and grammatically correct sentences. When constructing answers to these questions, you will need to aim for one to two sentences per point in the question's point-value. Most examination questions will be centered on lecture material, while some questions will focus

on related laboratory material. Examinations are take-home and are to be typed in Microsoft Word. They will be submitted in D2L through with Turn-It-In to evaluate peer copying and the use of AI. Only your course notes and text books can be used as you complete the examinations. No use of other humans, no use of any sources of information from the internet, and no use of AI is permitted. The laboratory final examination will cover all lecture material and will be specimen-based. The laboratory examination will be given during the last lab meeting. The exams, their point-value, their content, release dates, and due dates are found below.

- Lecture Examination 1 (100 points): A Sedimentary Life (Weeks 1 to 5) – exam releases 09/26/26 and is due 10/02/26 at 11:59 pm.
- Lecture Examination 2 (100 points): Depositional Environments (Weeks 6 to 10) – exam releases 10/30/26 and is due 11/06/26 by 11:59 pm.
- Lecture Examination 3 (100 points): Stratigraphy (Weeks 11 to 15) – exam releases 12/04/26 and is due 12/07/26 by 11:59 pm.
- Laboratory Final Examination (100 points): All Laboratory Content – exam is given during the laboratory period on 12/02/2026 and will be due at the end of the laboratory period.

Project Papers

There will be two projects to complete during the semester in this course. One project will focus on the use of sedimentology in interpretation of depositional environments. The other project will focus on descriptive stratigraphy and depositional interpretations to tell a larger story. Each project will culminate in a short, scientific-style paper with required figures.

- Sedimentology and Depositional Interpretation of the Riverside Drive exposure of the Calvert Bluff and Carrizo Formations, Bastrop, Texas: Due
 - Rosscoe and Bader completed a detailed study of this exposure in the spring of 2026. As a part of that investigation, they collected samples of the sandstones. Those samples have been prepared for grain-size analysis.
 - Each student will carefully and methodically use a RoTap to determine the distribution of the sand-sized grains from one of these samples. 3-runs from the sample will be completed.
 - All student data will be compiled and distributed to the class to evaluate depositional environment using Friedman plots.
 - A paper will be written describing the depositional environments indicated by the sand-grain distributions and how the depositional environments shift over time (stratigraphically).
 - Detailed instructions and grading rubric will be released when the paper is assigned.
 - Some aspects of this project will be completed as a part of laboratory activities.
- Correlation and Interpretation of the Salesville Formation, Mineral Wells, Texas
 - After completing field work in the Mineral Wells area, and being provided measured sections and other data from the Salesville Formation you will correlate and complete a depositional interpretation of the Salesville Formation.

- A paper will be written explaining the stratigraphy of the region, the correlation of the measured sections, and the depositional interpretation for the rock units within the Salesville Formation.
- Detailed instruction and grading rubric will be released when the paper is assigned.
- Some aspects of this project will be completed as part of field activities and class discussions.

Laboratory Activities

Throughout the semester you will complete 12 laboratory activities (subject to change due to unforeseeable circumstances). These activities are designed to build your familiarity with sediments and sedimentary rocks, field and lab techniques. It is imperative that you complete these activities by their due dates and attendance to lab is a requirement. Each lab is worth 20 points toward your grade. Lab activities will extend beyond the laboratory period with each lab being due at the start of the next lab. Dr. Rosscoe will start each lab discussing the required material and going over the lab assignment. When we get to the different sedimentary rocks, we'll evaluate one of the eight specimens together (as a class), the remaining specimens you will complete by the start of the next lab. You must do your own work, but discussing and working together with your peers is encouraged. Dr. Rosscoe and Audrey Lane (TA) will assist you during the laboratory period. Asking for assistance outside of lab is encouraged but you must recognize that we may not have time to help when you are asking. Audrey will be grading the labs, Dr. Rosscoe will review the grades for accuracy, and then post the grades. Late labs making grading agonizing. Once we have graded a lab, if you still haven't completed it, the grade will be a zero.

Field Trips and Post Trip Activities

There will be three required field experiences in this course. These experiences are designed to help you develop your field skills and apply them to specific geological problems. Attendance is required to each field activity. An assignment follows each field experience to demonstrate your skills and field potential. The details on the three trips, their point-values, and assignments can be found in the table below. Assignment descriptions are found below the tables.

Date	Time Window	Field Experience	Assignment
Saturday 10/03	10 am – 3 pm	MSU Sed/Strat Field Day (MSU Campus)	Attendance (10 pts) Field Book Ref. Page (10 pts) Field Skills Challenge (10 pts)
Saturday 10/17	9 am – 5 pm	Measuring a Section (Seymour, Texas)	Attendance (10 pts) Field Notes Copy (15 pts) Measured Section (15 pts)
Saturday 11/07	9 am – 5 pm	The Sedimentary Past (Mineral Wells, Texas)	Attendance (10 pts) Field Notes Copy (15 pts) Executive Summary (15 pts)

- **Attendance** (3 @ 10 points each) – Attendance is required to field experiences; you will get 10 points for attending each.

- Field Book Reference Page (10 points) – You will construct, in your field notebook, a field reference page that you can use to aid in measurements and observations. You will affix this reference page into your field notebook. A scanned or photographed copy will be submitted in D2L and graded. The grading rubric will be made available before the due date.
- Field Skills Challenge (10 points) – As part of the field day you will be given a series of field tasks to complete (after being trained, of course). Every student must complete the field skill challenge. Grading will be based on effort and accuracy of your results. Best results from each class wins a glorious prize (prize may not actually be glorious, but the glory of winning will be).
- Field Notes Copy (2 @ 15 points) – You will scan or photograph a copy of your field notes from Seymour and Mineral Wells field trips. Your field notes will be graded on completeness and accuracy. You will need to include all required elements of a proper field notebook entry. The grading rubric will be provided in advance of the due date.
- Measured Section (15 points) – You will prepare a measured section from your field work in the Permian-Quaternary unconformity studied in Seymour, Texas. You will construct a full and detailed figure using appropriate symbology in Adobe Illustrator. You will submit a PDF document in D2L. The measured section will be graded for completeness, accuracy, and how well you keep to the provided standards. The grading rubric will be provided in advance of the due date.
- Executive Summary (15 points) – You will prepare a one-page summary of the depositional environments that we investigated in the Mineral Wells area in stratigraphic order (oldest to youngest). For each unit, you will provide an environmental interpretation and support that interpretation with three lines of support from your observations of the rock. This summary will be typed and submitted in a Microsoft Word document. This summary will be foundation of the geologic setting for your Mineral Wells paper. The grading rubric will be provided in advance of the due date.

Extra Credit

There are no planned extra credit activities for this course. It is possible that extra credit assignments may be assigned as the semester progresses at the discretion of the instructor. Extra credit assignments are assignments that have due dates; no late credit will be given.

Late Work Policy

This is a graduate level where nearly all assignments have a week or more of lead time before their due date. ***No late work will be accepted.** Missed labs and examinations may be made up with a legal, paper-documented, excuse.

Make-Up Work/Tests

For legal, paper-documented excuses make-ups for labs and examinations can be completed. Make-up work should be arranged for in advance wherever possible. The instructor will give you a new deadline that is reasonable for the course timeline. ***No make-up work (lecture or lab) will be allowed beyond 10 days past the original deadline.**

No Substitute Assignments

You must complete the assignments, laboratories, and examinations presented in this syllabus.

***No substitute assignments will be allowed to compensate for poor performance or missed deadlines.**

Course Grades and Grade Bumps Policy

In my courses, a grade is earned by accumulating points throughout the semester. The grade you earn in the course is determined by the number of points you earn through the timely completion of assignments. As such, at the end of the semester, there are no grade bumps given out. Do not ask how or if you can be bumped up to the next letter grade, if you haven't earned the points, you will not be able to get that grade.

If you believe there to be an error in the calculation of your grade, whether it is on a specific assignment or the whole course feel free to ask me to re-evaluate and double check. I will do so happily. For specific assignments, be prepared to give me specific reasons you feel the grade is wrong (which wrong answer do you think was right, etc.).

Instructor Classroom Policies

The following policies are the policies that are integral for our successful completion of the course and should be read thoroughly. If you have any questions, please see the instructor.

Academic Honesty Policy

Academic dishonesty is considered cheating, collusion, and plagiarism. Any unauthorized assistance during the completion of assignments, using on aids beyond those authorized for an assignment, or the use of other people or services to complete assignments is considered cheating. Working with others in a way that is not authorized by the instructor to complete assignments is considered to be collusion. Plagiarism is the use of another person's materials (by paraphrase or direct quotation) without giving them full and clear acknowledgement. The use of material prepared by another person or agency selling term papers and academic materials is also considered plagiarism. ***If a student is caught cheating, colluding, or plagiarizing on any assignment the assignment grade will automatically be a zero. Two or more violations will result in failure of the course.**

Artificial Intelligence Policy

This course is classified as an ***AI Prohibited Course**. The use of any artificial intelligence (AI) in completing course assignments is NOT allowed. AI in this sense is any technology that summarizes, writes, or answers questions on its own. Recent court rulings have allowed lawsuits to go forward against Chat GPT and other AI operators because it directly plagiarizes the use of others. College is about you learning to write, you developing your voice, and you learning how to process, summarize, and properly cite information. Any use of AI is considered a violation of this academic honesty policy.

Classroom Civility Policy

Learning, especially in science, can be a very challenging process. Learning often requires putting yourself out there and being vulnerable. Science also happens to be at the forefront of information which may conflict with personal beliefs. Your beliefs are yours and nothing will change that, though those beliefs may not get you credit on the exam. We are focused on science and what understandings have been developed in the field. Additionally, no scientist thinks the same way as every other scientist. To develop the best understandings of our universe, we must seek input from all people in the field.

In my classroom, we strive to create an environment where everyone is respected and valued for who they are. We are all here together, learning together, and working toward the same goal. This is not a place for hate of any kind. The use of derogatory language, hate speech, or violence is absolutely unacceptable in this classroom and in any setting related to the course. Learn to work with and value all people. Be civil and treat each other with respect. Do your best to listen to each other, in any conversation. Use of derogatory language, hate speech, or violence will result in removal to the classroom or the course.

Dr. Rosscoe is available to help if you have any concerns or questions about building a positive classroom environment. The campus also has numerous resources related to a safe and welcoming experience at MSU. Also, don't forget the MSU Safety App.

- [Title IX Misconduct](#): Dating violence, sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, and other forms of sexual misconduct.
- [Bias Incident Reporting](#): Bias and hate incidents related to race, gender, or sexual identity.
- [Disability Grievance Procedures](#): Discrimination on the basis of disability.

COVID-19 and Illnesses Policy

Since COVID-19, classroom health has been a necessary and probably long overdue focus. While there are no longer COVID-19 policies in place by the university the following procedures are scientific best practices. These same principles can be applied to any viral infection (flu, cold, etc.).

- If you become ill and have symptoms, get tested.
- If you are positive for COVID-19, stay home. It's good for your recovery and good for protecting your peers.
- Illness happens and if you absolutely must be in public, wear a mask. Even a cloth mask reduces the chance you will spread the illness to others.
- If you stay home or miss assignments, be sure to get a doctor's note and excuse. It allows the instructor to help you make things up.

In the case of long-term illnesses or medical situations that will prevent you from attending classes regularly, contact the professor as soon as possible. We will work together to make sure that you can succeed, just make sure it is Doctor-documented. I can't do much to help, if I don't know until the day before the semester ends.

Electronic Devices Policy

Use of electronic devices for taking notes is allowed in my classroom. The use of social media or streaming anything is not an appropriate use of technology during class. If your use of technology is non-educational or is being disruptive to your peers, you will be asked to leave. If you're in the back of the room, ear buds in, and smiling as you watch something on your device, I do notice. Don't be that person.

Recording Classes Policy

***Recording classes is generally prohibited without the professor's explicit permission.** Such recordings, when permitted are for personal use only and may not be uploaded to the internet or otherwise shared, transmitted, or published without the professor's prior consent. Some faculty may not permit recordings of their classes. When it is feasible and appropriate, students may record classes to accommodate disabilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act, with prior approval of Disability Support Services. Such recordings may not be uploaded to the internet or otherwise shared, transmitted, or published.

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

Extensive use of the MSU D2L learning management system is required in 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 instructor.

Computer Requirements

Taking this course involves the completion of all lecture exams, reading quizzes, and discussions in the course learning management system (D2L). This 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 a 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. ***Your computer being down is not an excuse for missing a deadline!!** 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.

Inclement Weather Policy

In cases of extreme weather events that delay or close campus and where those delays or closures impact the course:

- If the closure or delay includes lecture meeting time, the lecture will not meet and the lecture schedule for the semester will be modified.

- If the closure or delay includes a laboratory meeting time, the laboratory will not meet and all remaining laboratory meetings for the week will be cancelled to keep the lab sections on the same schedule. Lab due dates and lab quiz dates will be adjusted.
- If due dates are impacted by the delay or closure, they will be rescheduled.
- All changes to the course schedule will be posted, in writing, in D2L.

NOTE: Because all students do not have equal or reliable access to technology and internet, especially in times of inclement weather, we WILL NOT shift to online in cases of inclement weather.

University Policies and Information

The following information and policies apply to this course. Please read each of these policies and ask your instructor if you have any questions.

Important Dates

- First Day of Classes: August 24th, 2026
- Change of Schedule and Late Registration: August 24th-27th, 2026
- Labor Day Holiday, No Classes: September 7th, 2026
- Last Day to File for December Graduation: September 21st, 2026
- Priority Deadline for Filing for May Graduation: October 5th, 2026
- Last Day for “W” (Drops after this date receive “F”): November 23rd, 2026
- Thanksgiving Holiday, No Classes: November 25th-29th, 2026
- Last Day of Classes: December 4th, 2026
- Final Examinations: December 5th to 10th, 2026
- Commencement: December 11th, 2026 (Graduate), December 12th, 2026 (Undergraduate)

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all meetings of the classes in which they are enrolled. Although in general students are graded on intellectual effort and performance rather than attendance, absences may lower the student's grade where class attendance and class participation are deemed essential by the faculty member. In those classes where attendance is considered as part of the grade, the instructor should so inform students of the specifics in writing at the beginning of the semester in a syllabus or separate attendance policy statement. An instructor who has an attendance policy must keep records on a daily basis. The instructor must give the student a verbal or written warning prior to being dropped from the class. Instructor's records will stand as evidence of absences. A student with excessive absences may be dropped from a course by the instructor. Any individual faculty member or college has the authority to establish an attendance policy, providing the policy is in accordance with the General University Policies.

Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or 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](#).

Emergency Aid Resources for Basic Needs

Unexpected life circumstances can affect anyone. If you are experiencing challenges meeting basic needs – such as housing, utilities, food, transportation, healthcare, technology, textbooks, or other life necessities, resources may be available to help. Visit the [Student Emergency Support and Resources webpage](#) to learn more, and explore emergency support opportunities through MSU and how to access them. For additional information, please contact the Office of Student Affairs: Clark Student Center # 108, (940) 397-7500, student.affairs@msutexas.edu.

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes as prohibited. The new Constitutional Carry law does not change this process. Concealed carry still requires a License to Carry permit, and openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#).

Active Shooter

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the information provided by MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more information, visit [Safety / Emergency Procedures](#).

Smoking and Tobacco Policy

Midwestern State University seeks to provide a safe, healthy, pleasant environment for its faculty, staff, and students. To this end, the use of tobacco products, including smoke and smokeless tobacco, and the advertising, sale, free distribution, and discarding of tobacco products shall be prohibited in all indoor and outdoor facilities and in all university vehicles. The policy extends to faculty, staff, students, vendors, guests, and visitors.

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

Following the appropriate procedure for grade appeals requires you to speak to your instructor first, so talk to your instructor. Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [Undergraduate Catalog](#).

Course Topic Schedule

The following is the schedule for the lecture and laboratory topics we will study during the semester. This schedule will vary over the semester as some topics may move quicker or slower than expected. ***Note: Changes in the course syllabus, procedures, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.**

Week	Dates	Monday Lecture	Wednesday Lecture	Wednesday Lab	Friday Lecture
1	Aug 24 to Aug 28	Course Introduction	Weathering	01 – Qual. Sediment Texture	Phys. Weathering
2	Aug 31 to Sep 04	Chem. Weathering	Sediments	02 – Quant. Sediment Texture	Fluid Flow
3	Sep 07 to Sep 11	No Class Meeting <i>Labor Day</i>	Erosion	03 – Sediment Texture Interp.	Entrainment
4	Sep 14 to Sep 18	Grain Settling	Deposition	04 – Sediment Composition	Lithification
5	Sep 21 to Sep 25	Diagenesis	Diagenesis	05 – Conglomerates	Diagenesis
6	Sep 28 to Oct 02	Fluvial Systems	Fluvial Systems	06 – Sandstones 1	Fluvial Systems
7	Oct 05 to Oct 09	Arid Systems	Arid Systems	07 – Sandstones 2	Glacial Systems
8	Oct 12 to Oct 16	No Class Meeting <i>GSA Denver</i>	No Class Meeting <i>GSA Denver</i>	No Lab Meeting <i>GSA Denver</i>	Glacial Systems
9	Oct 19 to Oct 23	Lacustrine Systems	Evaporite Systems	08 – Mudrocks	Karst Systems
10	Oct 26 to Oct 30	Marine Systems	Marine Systems	09 – Carbonates 1	Marine Systems
11	Nov 02 to Nov 06	Stratigraphic Code	Time vs. Rock	10 – Carbonates 2	Unconformity
12	Nov 09 to Nov 13	Lithostratigraphy	Lithostratigraphy	11 – Chemical and Organic Rocks	Facies & Walther
13	Nov 16 to Nov 20	Cyclothems	Sequences	12 – Sedimentary Structures	Sequence Strat.
14	Nov 23 to May 27	Chemostratigraphy	No Class Meeting <i>Thanksgiving</i>	No Lab Meeting <i>Thanksgiving</i>	No Class Meeting <i>Thanksgiving</i>
15	Nov 30 to Dec 04	Index Fossils	Biozones	Lab Final Examination	Biostratigraphy

Field Trip Dates (Required)

- Saturday, October 3rd – MSU Sed/Strat Field Day @ MSU (combined activity day with 5333).
- Saturday, October 17th – Measuring a Section near Seymour, Texas
- Saturday, November 7th – The Sedimentary Past of Mineral Wells, Texas

Final Examination Block

- The final exam block is Monday, December 7th, 2026, from 8:00 am to 10:00 am. The exam is online, in person attendance is not required. I will be available in my office at that time.

Course Due Dates in Chronological Order

The following table lists the due dates of each assignment in the course. All items are due at the dates and times listed in the table below. ***NOTE: Changes in the course syllabus, procedures, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.**

Due Date	Assignment
Wednesday, September 2 nd , 2026	Laboratory 1 – due at 1:00 pm
Wednesday, September 9 th , 2026	Laboratory 2 – due at 1:00 pm
Wednesday, September 16 th , 2026	Laboratory 3 – due at 1:00 pm
Wednesday, September 23 rd , 2026	Laboratory 4 – due at 1:00 pm
Wednesday, September 30 th , 2026	Laboratory 5 – due at 1:00 pm
Friday, October 2 nd , 2026	Lecture Examination 1 – due at 11:59 pm
Saturday, October 3 rd , 2026	Sed/Strat Field Day at MSU
Wednesday, October 7 th , 2026	Laboratory 6 – due at 1:00 pm
Friday, October 9 th , 2026	Sedimentology Paper – due at 11:59 pm
Friday, October 16 th , 2026	Field Book Reference Page – due at 11:59 pm Field Skills Challenge – due at 11:59 pm
Saturday, October 17 th , 2026	Seymour Field Trip
Wednesday, October 21 st , 2026	Laboratory 7 – due at 1:00 pm
Wednesday, October 28 th , 2026	Laboratory 8 – due at 1:00 pm
Monday, November 2 nd , 2026	Seymour Field Notes – due at 11:59 pm Measured Section – due at 11:59 pm
Wednesday, November 4 th , 2026	Laboratory 9 – due at 1:00 pm
Friday, November 6 th , 2026	Lecture Examination 2 – due at 11:59 pm
Saturday, November 7 th , 2026	Mineral Wells Field Trip
Wednesday, November 11 th , 2026	Laboratory 10 – due at 1:00 pm
Wednesday, November 18 th , 2026	Laboratory 11 – due at 1:00 pm
Monday, November 23 rd , 2026	Mineral Wells Field Notes – due at 11:59 pm Executive Summary – due at 11:59 pm
Wednesday, December 2 nd , 2026	Laboratory 12 – due at 1:00 pm Laboratory Final Examination – due at 3:00 pm
Monday, December 7 th , 2026	Lecture Examination 3 – due at 11:59 pm
Wednesday, December 9 th , 2026	Stratigraphy Paper – due at 11:59 pm