PELLISSIPPI STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
MASTER SYLLABUS
SPECIAL TOPICS IN GEOLOGY
GEOL 1005

Class Hours: 1-4.0 Credit Hours: 1-4.0
Laboratory Hours: 0-3 Revised: Fall 2014

Catalog Course Description:
Topics offered will provide students opportunities for undergraduate research as well as extended course work in areas of faculty and student interest and need.

Entry Level Standards:
Specific entry standards will vary depending on the topic. Some topics will require the consent of the instructor. The student should be able to effectively communicate with instructor and peers, complete assignments according to instructor specifications, and read and write at the required level. It is highly recommended that students have a basic working knowledge of a desk- or laptop-computer.

Prerequisites:
Consent of instructor.

Textbook(s) and Other Course Materials:
Textbooks will vary, depending on the content and the instructor. Handouts or other material may be provided.

I. Week/Unit/Topic Basis:
Activities will vary according to course content and may include lectures, discussions, field trips, laboratory experiments, essays, and term papers.

II. Course Goals*:
The course will

A. Develop an awareness of a particular aspect of geology. I.5
B. Expand the student’s understanding of technological advances in a particular aspect of geology. I.5, V
C. Build critical thinking skills and problem solving skills to review and analyze information related to the selected topic. III.1, III.2
D. Develop an appreciation of the societal issues involved with the special topic when appropriate IV
*Roman numerals after course objectives reference TBRs general education goals.

III. Expected Student Learning Outcomes*:

Students will be able to:

1. Appraise basic and advanced facts associated with the selected topic. A
2. Identify practical applications and future implications of the selected topic. A, B
3. Explain the manner in which the special topic fits into the overall picture of geology. A
4. Recognize (depending on the course) appropriate principles, analyses, and technologies. B, C
5. Use discussions to evaluate the societal implications involved with the special topic. D.

* Capital letters after Expected Student Learning Outcomes reference the course goals listed above.

IV. Evaluation:

A. Testing Procedures:

   The specific evaluation methods will vary according to the course content. However, components of this will include written exams, participation in class activities, and written and oral reports. The details will be supplied by the instructor of the course on its syllabus.

B. Laboratory Expectations:

   n/a

C. Field Work:

   n/a

D. Other Evaluation Methods:

   n/a

E. Grading Scale:

   90-100 A
   80-89  B
   70-79  C
   60-69  D
   below 60 F

V. Policies:

A. Attendance Policy:

   Pellissippi State expects students to attend all scheduled instructional activities. As a minimum, students in all courses (excluding distance learning courses) must be present for at least 75
percent of their scheduled class and laboratory meetings in order to receive credit for the course. Individual departments/programs/disciplines, with the approval of the vice president of Academic Affairs, may have requirements that are more stringent. In very specific circumstances, an appeal of the policy may be addressed to the head of the department in which the course was taken. If further action is warranted, the appeal may be addressed to the vice president of Academic Affairs.

B. Academic Dishonesty:

Academic misconduct committed either directly or indirectly by an individual or group is subject to disciplinary action. Prohibited activities include but are not limited to the following practices:

• Cheating, including but not limited to unauthorized assistance from material, people, or devices when taking a test, quiz, or examination; writing papers or reports; solving problems; or completing academic assignments.
• Plagiarism, including but not limited to paraphrasing, summarizing, or directly quoting published or unpublished work of another person, including online or computerized services, without proper documentation of the original source.
• Purchasing or otherwise obtaining prewritten essays, research papers, or materials prepared by another person or agency that sells term papers or other academic materials to be presented as one’s own work.
• Taking an exam for another student.
• Providing others with information and/or answers regarding exams, quizzes, homework or other classroom assignments unless explicitly authorized by the instructor.
• Any of the above occurring within the Web or distance learning environment.

Please see the Pellissippi State Policies and Procedures Manual, Policy 04:02:00 Academic/Classroom Conduct and Disciplinary Sanctions for the complete policy.

C. Accommodations for disabilities:

Students that need accommodations because of a disability, have emergency medical information to share, or need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated should inform the instructor immediately, privately after class or in her or his office. Students must present a current accommodation plan from a staff member in Disability Services (DS) in order to receive accommodations in this course. Disability Services may be contacted by sending email to disabilityservices@pstcc.edu, or by visiting Alexander 130. More information is available at http://www.pstcc.edu/sswd/.

D. Other Policies:

Any act of misuse, vandalism, malicious or unwarranted damage or destruction, defacing, disfiguring, or unauthorized use of property/equipment belonging to Pellissippi State is subject to disciplinary sanction.