GEOLOGY (GEOL)

GEOL 812 Volcanology and Igneous Petrology
Crosslisted with: GEOL 412
Prerequisites: GEOL 201; and either CHEM 109 or CHEM 113
Description: The study of igneous systems, including an investigation of volcanic processes, mineral equilibria, petrography, and the geochemistry of magmas and minerals.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC

GEOL 815 Geochemical Thermodynamics
Notes: This course requires command of material covered in MATH 107 and GEOL 201 or equivalent.
Description: Exploration of the fundamentals of geochemistry from thermodynamics, including the laws of thermodynamics, multicomponent analysis, extrapolation to temperatures and pressures of interest, nonideal solution behavior, phase diagrams, volatile fugacities, and redox reactions.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC

GEOL 816 Isotope Geochemistry
Prerequisites: GEOL 410
Description: Behavior of stable and radiogenic isotopes in geological and cosmochemical systems. Application of isotope geochemistry to determining the age of rocks, as well as the sources of the chemical components in the rocks.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC

GEOL 817 Organic Geochemistry
Crosslisted with: GEOL 417
Prerequisites: GEOL 410 and CHEM 251.
Description: Origin, preservation and transport of organic compounds found in the rock record. Applications of organic geochemistry to paleoclimatic and paleoenvironmental interpretations as well as discerning the origins of coal, oil and natural gas.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC

GEOL 818 Chemistry of Natural Waters
Crosslisted with: GEOL 418, NRES 419, NRES 819, WATS 418
Prerequisites: CHEM 109 and 110, 113 and 114, or CHEM 111.
Description: Principles of water chemistry and their use in precipitation, surface water, and groundwater studies. Groundwater applications used to determine the time and source of groundwater recharge, estimate groundwater residence time, identify aquifer mineralogy, examine the degree of mixing between waters of various sources and evaluate what types of biological and chemical processes have occurred during the water’s journey through the aquifer system.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC

GEOL 818L Chemistry of Natural Waters Laboratory
Crosslisted with: GEOL 418L, GEOL 819L, NRES 419L, NRES 819L, WATS 418L
Prerequisites: GEOL 418 or parallel.
Description: Basic laboratory techniques used to perform water analysis including various wet chemical techniques, instrument use (AA, IC, UV-Visible) and computer modeling. Techniques for sample collection and preservation, parameter estimation and chemical analysis.
Credit Hours: 1
Max credits per semester: 1
Max credits per degree: 1
Format: LAB

GEOL 819 Applications of Remote Sensing in Agriculture and Natural Resources
Crosslisted with: AGRO 419, GEOG 419, GEOL 419, NRES 420, AGRO 819, GEOG 819, NRES 820
Notes: GEOG 418/NRES 418 recommended
Description: Introduction to the practical uses of remote electromagnetic sensing in dealing with agricultural and water-resources issues.
Credit Hours: 4
Max credits per semester: 4
Max credits per degree: 4
Format: LEC
Groups: Techniques

GEOL 821 Carbonate Petrology
Crosslisted with: GEOL 421
Prerequisites: GEOL 310.
Notes: Lab focuses on field, petrographic and geochemical methods.
Description: Depositional settings and processes, petrography, geochemistry, diagenesis and geological significance of modern and ancient carbonate rocks and sediments.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC

GEOL 825 Carbonate Petrography
Crosslisted with: GEOL 425
Prerequisites: GEOL 310.
Notes: Lab focuses on field, petrographic and geochemical methods.
Description: Depositional settings and processes, petrography, geochemistry, diagenesis and geological significance of modern and ancient carbonate rocks and sediments.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC
GEOL 823 Quaternary Paleoclimatology and Paleoecology
Crosslisted with: BIOS 423, BIOS 823, GEOL 423
Prerequisites: 12 hrs GEOL or BIOS.
Description: Analysis and interpretation of the Quaternary period's paleoclimatological data. Patterns of long-term climate variation. Distribution patterns and responses of organisms and ecosystems to Quaternary environmental change.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC

GEOL 824 Biogeochemical Cycles
Crosslisted with: BIOS 424, BIOS 824, GEOL 424
Prerequisites: CHEM 109 or 113; 12 hrs GEOL or BIOS.
Description: Chemical cycling at or near the earth's surface, emphasizing interactions among the atmosphere, biosphere, geosphere and hydrosphere. Modern processes, the geological record, and human impacts on elemental cycles.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC

GEOL 825 Geostatistics
Crosslisted with: NRES 825
Prerequisites: MATH 106 and STAT 218
Notes: Offered fall semester of odd-numbered calendar years.
Description: Practical methods for solving spatial interpolation and related estimation problems with emphasis on geostatistical methods. Introduction to applied statistical simulation and prediction in geology, hydrogeology and environmental studies.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC

GEOL 828 Stratigraphic Architecture and Sequence Stratigraphy
Prerequisites: GEOL 310
Description: Analysis of stratigraphic stacking patterns in sedimentary basins and sequence stratigraphic methods.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC

GEOL 830 Quantitative Methods in Paleontology
Crosslisted with: GEOL 430
Prerequisites: GEOL 310.
Description: Numerical and statistical analysis of paleontological data including biometry, syn-ecology, and quantitative biostratigraphy.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC

GEOL 831 Micro-paleontology
Crosslisted with: GEOL 431
Prerequisites: GEOL 310.
Description: Morphology, classification, ecology and geological application of common fossil and extant marine, brackish, and freshwater microfossils.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC

GEOL 835 Vertebrate Paleontology
Crosslisted with: GEOL 435
Prerequisites: Permission or graduate standing.
Description: Survey of the evolution of the vertebrates, including the geological and biological factors that influence the pattern of evolution, and laboratory study of fossil materials of the major vertebrate groups.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC

GEOL 836 Evolution of Cenozoic Mammals
Crosslisted with: GEOL 436, NRES 436, NRES 836
Prerequisites: GEOL 103
Description: Survey of mammalian evolution with emphasis on the origin, radiation, and phylogenetic relationships of Cenozoic fossil mammals. Overview of climatic and ecological changes affecting mammalian adaptations and hands on experience with specimens.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC
Prerequisite for: GEOL 935

GEOL 840 Tectonics
Crosslisted with: GEOL 440
Prerequisites: GEOL 400.
Description: Theory of plate tectonics; tectonic controls on rock assemblages; interpretation of regional structure and tectonic history; origin and tectonic evolution of terrestrial planets.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC

GEOL 842 Environmental Geophysics I
Crosslisted with: GEOL 442
Prerequisites: MATH 107; PHYS 211; GEOL 101 or 106.
Description: Introduction to the principles of seismic, ground-penetrating radar, and bore-hole geophysical methods and their application to groundwater, engineering, environmental, and archaeological investigations.
Credit Hours: 4
Max credits per semester: 4
Max credits per degree: 4
Format: LEC
GEOL 843 Environmental Geophysics II
Crosslisted with: GEOL 443
Prerequisites: MATH 107; PHYS 211; GEOL 101 or 106.
Description: Introduction to principles of magnetic, electromagnetic, resistivity, and gravity methods and their application to ground water, engineering, environmental, and archaeological investigations.
Credit Hours: 4
Max credits per semester: 4
Max credits per degree: 4
Format: LEC

GEOL 844 Geomicrobiology
Crosslisted with: BIOS 444, BIOS 844, GEOL 444
Prerequisites: 3 hours of BIOS or 3 hours of LIFE; 3 hours of CHEM
Description: Lectures and discussions of primary literature regarding microorganisms and their role transforming Earth through geologic time.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC

GEOL 845 Advanced Geophysics
Crosslisted with: GEOL 445
Prerequisites: GEOL 344
Description: Integrative analysis of geophysical data (gravity, magnetics, seismic) with geological information (well logs, tectonic history, etc.)
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC

GEOL 846 Exploration Geophysics
Crosslisted with: GEOL 446
Prerequisites: GEOL 485
Description: Geophysical methods used for petroleum exploration: potential fields, seismology, electrical and electromagnetic surveying.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC

GEOL 850 Surficial Processes and Landscape Evolution
Crosslisted with: GEOL 450
Prerequisites: GEOL 310.
Description: Fluvial, glacial, eolian, and coastal processes and landforms. Roles of tectonics, climate, and climate change in landscape evolution. Lab stresses description and interpretation of landforms from remotely-sensed, cartographic, and field data.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC
Prerequisite for: GEOL 465, GEOL 865, NRES 465, NRES 865

GEOL 851 Invertebrate Paleobiology
Crosslisted with: GEOL 451, BIOS 451, BIOS 851
Prerequisites: At least one of: GEOL 103, GEOL 105, LIFE 121
Description: Overview of the key traits, relationships and evolutionary dynamics of invertebrate animals over Earth’s history, particularly over the Phanerozoic (i.e., the last 540 million years). Emphasis on the use of invertebrate fossil record to test ideas about long term evolutionary patterns as well as learning the histories and basic anatomies of major invertebrate taxa.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC

GEOL 857 Ecosystem Ecology
Crosslisted with: BIOS 457, BIOS 857, GEOL 457
Prerequisites: BIOS 207 and CHEM 110 and Senior standing
Description: Processes controlling the cycling of energy and elements in ecosystems and how both plant and animal species influence them. Human-influenced global and local changes that alter these cycles and ecosystem functioning.
Credit Hours: 4
Max credits per semester: 4
Max credits per degree: 4
Format: LEC
Prerequisite for: BSEN 954, NRES 954

GEOL 861 Soil Physics
Crosslisted with: AGRO 461, GEOL 461, NRES 461, SOIL 461, WATS 461, AGRO 861, NRES 861
Prerequisites: AGRO/SOIL 153; PHYS 141 or equivalent, one semester of calculus.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC
Prerequisite for: AGEN 955, AGRO 955, CIVE 955, GEOL 985

GEOL 865 Soil Geomorphology and Paleopedology
Crosslisted with: GEOL 465, NRES 465, NRES 865
Prerequisites: GEOL 450/850 and NRES 477/877.
Description: Soils and paleosols as evidence in reconstruction landscape evolution and paleoenvironments. Role of paleosols in stratigraphy.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC

GEOL 870 Field Techniques in Hydrogeology
Crosslisted with: GEOL 470
Prerequisites: GEOL 488/888.
Description: Basic techniques, field procedures, instruments, and software for data interpretation, and characterization of groundwater flow and contaminant transport.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC
GEOL 872 Water in Geosciences
Crosslisted with: GEOL 472
Prerequisites: MATH 106 and 107; PHYS 141; and one of the following: GEOL 101 or 106 or METR 100.
Description: Quantitative approach to water in geological media, earth surface and atmosphere. Understanding and analysis of physical processes involved in groundwater-surface-atmosphere interactions.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC

GEOL 875 Water Quality Strategy
Crosslisted with: NRES 475, NRES 875, SOCI 475, SOCI 875, SOIL 475, WATS 475, AGRO 475, AGRO 875, CIVE 475, CIVE 875, CRPL 475, CRPL 875, GEOL 475, MSYM 475, MSYM 875, POLS 475, POLS 875
Prerequisites: Senior standing.
Description: Holistic approach to the selection and analysis of planning strategies for protecting water quality from nonpoint sources of contamination. Introduction to the use of methods of analyzing the impact of strategies on whole systems and subsystems; for selecting strategies; and for evaluating present strategies.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC

GEOL 880 Economic Geology of the Metals
Crosslisted with: GEOL 480
Prerequisites: GEOL 400; CHEM 114, 221.
Description: Occurrence and utilization of the metallic ores. Elementary theory of ore genesis.
Credit Hours: 2
Max credits per semester: 2
Max credits per degree: 2
Format: LEC

GEOL 884 Water Resources Seminar
Crosslisted with: AGRO 484, GEOG 484, GEOL 484, NRES 484, WATS 484, NRES 884, AGRO 884, GEOG 884, WATS 884
Prerequisites: Junior or above standing.
Description: Seminar on current water resources research and issues in Nebraska and the region.
Credit Hours: 1
Max credits per semester: 1
Max credits per degree: 1
Format: LEC

GEOL 885 Fossil Fuel Geology and Exploration
Crosslisted with: GEOL 485
Prerequisites: GEOL 310.
Description: Geology of coal, oil and gas, and methods of exploration.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC

GEOL 888 Groundwater Geology
Crosslisted with: GEOL 488, NRES 488, NRES 888
Prerequisites: GEOL 100-level course; MATH 106 or equivalent.
Description: Occurrence, movement, and development of water in the geologic environment.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC

GEOL 889 Hydrogeology
Crosslisted with: NRES 887
Prerequisites: GEOL 888/NRES 488 and MATH 208
Description: Principles of flow through porous media with emphasis on basic classical solutions, flow-net analysis, and elementary modern numerical solutions that aid in the analysis and development of groundwater supplies.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC

GEOL 895 Economic and Exploration Geology
Crosslisted with: GEOL 495
Prerequisites: GEOL 310.
Notes: A required parallel course will be indicated by the instructor. Field trips which are required and supported by alumni endowment may be scheduled during semester breaks. Course content will vary on a 3-year rotational basis. Combined lectures, seminars, weekend short courses, and field trips.
Description: E.F. Schramm Course in Economic Geology. Aspects of fossil fuel geology and exploration.
Credit Hours: 2
Max credits per semester: 2
Max credits per degree: 2
Format: LEC

GEOL 917 Environmental Isotope Hydrology
Crosslisted with: NRES 917
Prerequisites: NRES 819.
Description: Theory and use of stable, radiogenic and radioactive isotopes in hydrologic studies. Abundance and variation of the stable isotopes of oxygen, hydrogen, carbon, sulphur, chlorine, nitrogen, and strontium. Application of the isotopes to determine water origin, movement, geochemical history, recharge age and residence time, and to delineate contaminant sources and solute migration.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC

GEOL 918 Seminar in Geochemistry
Description: Seminar in the study of geochemistry. Topics will vary.
Credit Hours: 1-6
Min credits per semester: 1
Max credits per semester: 6
Max credits per degree: 6
Format: LEC
GEOL 919 Seminar in Mineralogy and Petrology
Description: Advanced seminar on the study of mineralogy and petrology. Topics will vary.
Credit Hours: 1-6
Min credits per semester: 1
Max credits per semester: 6
Max credits per degree: 6
Format: LEC

GEOL 920 Seminar in Stratigraphy
Credit Hours: 1-2
Min credits per semester: 1
Max credits per semester: 2
Max credits per degree: 2
Format: LEC

GEOL 921 Sedimentary Petrography and Diagenesis
Description: Study of sedimentary rocks under the microscope, including origin, composition, texture, and diagenesis.
Credit Hours: 3
Min credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC

GEOL 922 Seminar in Sedimentary Environments
Credit Hours: 1-2
Min credits per semester: 1
Max credits per semester: 2
Max credits per degree: 2
Format: LEC

GEOL 925 Seminar in Sedimentology
Credit Hours: 1-2
Min credits per semester: 1
Max credits per semester: 2
Max credits per degree: 2
Format: LEC

GEOL 926 Marine Geology and Paleoceanography
Description: Geology of the oceanic realm, formation of oceanic crust, circulation, geochemistry, pelagic sediments and their diagenesis, correlation, and oceanic history.
Credit Hours: 3
Min credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC

GEOL 929 Mesozoic and Cenozoic Stratigraphy
Description: Application of stratigraphic principles and methods to the solution of Mesozoic and Cenozoic problems.
Credit Hours: 3
Min credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC

GEOL 930 Cenozoic Vertebrate Paleobiology
Prerequisites: GEOL 836
Description: Terrestrial vertebrate history during the Cenozoic Era with emphasis on the fossil record of Great Plains mammalian communities within the last fifteen million years.
Credit Hours: 2
Min credits per semester: 2
Max credits per degree: 2
Format: LEC

GEOL 936 Siliceous Phytoplankton Paleontology
Description: Biostratigraphy, paleoecology, and paleobiogeography of fossil diatoms, silicoflagellates and ebridians.
Credit Hours: 4
Max credits per semester: 4
Max credits per degree: 4
Format: LEC

GEOL 937 Mesozoic Calcareous Nannofossil Paleontology
Description: Biostratigraphy, paleoecology, and paleobiogeography of Mesozoic calcareous nannofossils.
Credit Hours: 4
Max credits per semester: 4
Max credits per degree: 4
Format: LEC

GEOL 938 Cenozoic Calcareous Microfossil Paleontology
Description: Biostratigraphy, paleoecology, and paleobiogeography of Cenozoic calcareous nannofossils.
Credit Hours: 4
Max credits per semester: 4
Max credits per degree: 4
Format: LEC

GEOL 939 Seminar in Paleontology
Credit Hours: 1-2
Min credits per semester: 1
Max credits per semester: 2
Max credits per degree: 2
Format: LEC

GEOL 940 Advanced Structural Geology
Credit Hours: 1-24
Min credits per semester: 1
Max credits per semester: 24
Max credits per degree: 24
Format: LEC

GEOL 945 Seminar in Structural Geology and Tectonics
Credit Hours: 1-2
Min credits per semester: 1
Max credits per semester: 2
Max credits per degree: 2
Format: LEC

GEOL 956 Seminar in Quaternary Geology
Credit Hours: 1-2
Min credits per semester: 1
Max credits per semester: 2
Max credits per degree: 2
Format: LEC
GEOL 957 Modeling Vadose Zone Hydrology
Crosslisted with: AGEN 957, BSEN 957, CIVE 957
Prerequisites: MATH 221/821 or equivalent. AGEN/BSEN 350 or NRES 453/853 or equivalent.
Notes: Typically offered spring semester in even years.
Description: Principles and modeling of fluid flow and solute transport in the vadose zone. Topics include hydraulic properties of variably saturated media, application of Darcy's Law in variably saturated media, hydrologic and transport processes in the vadose zone, and solution of steady and unsteady flow problems using numerical techniques including finite element methods. Contemporary vadose zone models will be applied to engineering flow and transport problems. Review and synthesis of classic and contemporary research literature on vadose zone hydrology will be embedded in the course.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC
Offered: SPRING

GEOL 985 Solute Movement in Soils
Crosslisted with: AGEN 955, AGRO 955, CIVE 955
Prerequisites: MATH 208; AGRO 861 or GEOL 888 or MSYM 852 or CIVE 858
Description: Examination of the theory and experimental evidence available to characterize the movement of chemicals in soil. Both saturated and unsaturated flow conditions examined. Initial presentation of basic theoretical concepts. Remainder of class a discussion of the literature.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC

GEOL 986 Contaminant Hydrogeology
Prerequisites: GEOL 888, MATH 208.
Description: Occurrence, behavior and remediation of contamination in geological media. Fundamentals of physical, mathematical, chemical, and engineering processes affecting movement of contaminants in the hydrogeological environment and their applications. Teamwork, projects, seminar presentations, field trips and invited lectures.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC

GEOL 988 Introduction to Groundwater Modeling
Prerequisites: GEOL 889, MATH 208 or equivalent, programming language.
Description: Application of fundamentals of modeling techniques (analytical, semi-analytical, finite-difference and finite elements) to the solution of hydrogeological problems. Emphasis on development of model concepts for specific groundwater flow and transport conditions, selection of solution methods, including computer software and hardware, performance of computer modeling, and interpretation of results.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC