GEOL524: Advanced Topics in Sedimentary Geology
Spring 2015
Syllabus

Professor: Dr. Sally Potter-McIntyre
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pottermcintyre@siu.edu (* best way to reach me)
Class Time: TBD (We will meet once a week)
Class Location: 110 Parkinson Laboratory
Office Hours: M, W, F 9:00-10:00AM
Readings: There is no assigned textbook for this class. Readings will be made available via D2L.

Course Objectives:
This seminar and field course will provide an in depth examination of depositional environments and how these environments are recorded and recognized in the rock record. We will focus on diagnostic sedimentary structures in a variety of marine and terrestrial environments by reading and discussing current scientific literature to provide a thorough understanding of modern sedimentology. A unit on sedimentary petrology will teach students to recognize sedimentary minerals and microscopic features that are characteristic of particular sedimentary depositional environments. The capstone of the course will be a field trip from April 11-19 to the Colorado Plateau to see the stratigraphy and sedimentological features discussed in class. This field trip will be student led based on the knowledge acquired during the semester through presentations and discussions.

Student Learning Objectives: Upon completion of this course, students will have an in-depth knowledge of sedimentology, stratigraphy, and depositional environments. This course will ensure that each student will 1) be able to think critically and recognize issues across a broad spectrum of subjects, 2) have a familiarity with the scientific approach to the biological and physical universe, 3) acquire basic team working skills, 4) be able to use scientific literature databases and synthesize knowledge from a variety of sources.

Grading Policy:
The grade for the course will be computed from the following components and their respective weights:
Class Presentations: 20%
Sedimentary Petrology Assignment: 5%
Field Presentations: 75%
Letter grades will be assigned based on the final computed grade as follows. We reserve the right to curve (in your favor).
> 90% A
80-89% B
70-79% C
60-69% D
< 60% F
COURSE POLICY REGARDING PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING

Important: please read SIU policies available online (see link in syllabus attachment below).

Definition of Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the use of another author's language, thoughts, ideas, or expressions and the representation of them as one's own original work. This includes, but is not limited to, word-for-word copying of another author’s text (even if it is another student paper or a previously turned in student paper of your own). It includes, but is not limited to, using another author’s ideas without proper citation, even if you think the idea common knowledge.

Sanctions for Plagiarism

All papers will be turned in to a dropbox on D2L and run through plagiarism detection software. Any student(s) whose paper returns greater or equal to 50% plagiarized material will fail the class and the student(s) will be reported to the dean for ethical violations. THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS. For papers with <50% plagiarized material, the penalty will be at the discretion of the professor and include: failure of the class or a zero grade on the assignment with or without a report to the dean. In the event of a group project, all students will receive the same penalty.

Sanctions for Cheating

All work on exams is expected to be your own and to be produced at the time of the exam. Any extraneous material (e.g., notes, calculators with memory functions, phones) that is visible during exams will result in a zero grade on the exam. Other methods of cheating (e.g., hacking into D2L to change grades or acquire exams prior to the test date) will be reported to the dean and the sanctions will be in the hands of the administration.