GLY 101
Introduction to Geology I (Physical Geology)

I. GLY 101 Introduction to Geology I (Physical Geology) - 4 Semester Hours

II. Course Description

Physical geology is a study of geologic processes and features with emphasis on plate tectonics. Topics include the origin of magma, volcanoes, earthquakes, weathering, sediments, metamorphism, rivers, glaciers, and groundwater. Laboratory studies include mineral and rock identification and topographic map reading.

III. Prerequisite

As required by the program.

IV. Textbook

Due to the varied selection of quality college level textbooks, each college will select the textbook needed to meet the requirements of this course.

V. Course Competencies and Objectives

The student will:

1. Identify common minerals and know their compositions and uses
2. Identify common rocks and to know their compositions and origins
3. Understand plate tectonics and its relationships to geologic processes
4. Read topographic maps and construct topographic profiles
5. Relate surface processes to the geomorphology of the earth
6. Understand the relevance of geology to everyday life and enjoy learning in the process

VI. Course Outline of Topics

1. One field trip is normally taken
2. Introduction an Plate Tectonics: An Overview
3. Mineralogy
4. Magmas: Origin and Crystallization
5. Plutonic Forms and Features
6. Volcanism
7. Weathering Processes and Products
8. Sedimentary Processes and Products
9. Metamorphism
10. Ground Water
11. Rivers
12. Shorelines
13. Winds and Deserts
14. Glaciers
15. Earthquakes
16. Earth’s Interior: Isotasy
17. Plate Tectonics Revisited

VII. Evaluation and Assessment

Lecture tests
Lecture quizzes
Lab tests
Lab/homework assignments
Comprehensive final exam

Grades will be given based upon A = 90 – 100%, B = 80 – 89%, C = 70 – 79%, D = 60 – 69%, and F = below 60%.

VIII. Attendance

Students are expected to attend all classes for which they are registered. Students who are unable to attend class regularly, regardless of the reason or circumstance, should withdraw from that class before poor attendance interferes with the student’s ability to achieve the objectives required in the course. Withdrawal from class can affect eligibility for federal financial aid.

IX. Statement on Discrimination/Harassment

The College and the Alabama State Board of Education are committed to providing both employment and educational environments free of harassment or discrimination related to an individual’s race, color, gender, religion, national origin, age, or disability. Such harassment is a violation of State Board of Education policy. Any practice or behavior that constitutes harassment or discrimination will not be tolerated.
X. **Americans with Disabilities**

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504) and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 state that qualified students with disabilities who meet the essential functions and academic requirements are entitled to reasonable accommodations. It is the student’s responsibility to provide appropriate disability documentation to the College.