**GLY 480**

**Lab techniques in Geology and Environmental Science**

**Credit hours:** 2 units

**Pre-requisites:** Science majors; consent of instructor

**Instructor:** Aley El-Din El-Shazly **e-mail**: elshazly@marshall.edu;

**Office:** 131 Science Building **Tel**: 304 – 696 – 6756

**Lectures:** T: 9:30 – 11:30 a.m., Rooms 125/ 128.

**Office hours:** **M, W, Th, F: 9:00 – 12:00, Th: 1-2(in lab); F: 12:00 – 1:00, or by appointment**. You could always send me e-mail, and I will get back to you as soon as possible. I also have an open door policy, if you cannot make it to my office hours, and I'm in my office between 9:00 and 3:00 p.m., it doesn't hurt to check with me; ... if I'm free, I'll be more than happy to help you. Please note that you will need to work in the lab outside the class hours, but your work MUST be supervised by me, so you have to coordinate carefully with me when you wish to complete your assignments.

**Objectives**:

In this lab you will learn (1) how to collect and prepare samples for various types of analyses (chemical, petrological, and mineralogical), (2) how to use the equipment currently available in the Geology Department and the College of Science to obtain precise and meaningful data, and (3) how to interpret the data to solve a problem of some geologic/ environmental relevance.

**Textbooks:**

None. In this class, we will rely on handouts, copies of standard operating procedures for the various pieces of instrumentation (already available in the labs), as well as copies of pertinent chapters from various textbooks dealing with geochemical analysis and operating manuals for the equipment at hand.

**Grade assignment:**

Weekly lab reports 85%

Final Exam 15%

A total of 10 lab reports and exercises will be graded, and will serve as the main basis for grade assignment (85% of grade). Each assignment is due a week from the date it is assigned. Late submission of the assignment will carry a penalty of 5%. The grade for each lab will be based on your ability to follow lab procedures properly, your proficiency in carrying out the lab assignments, observing the safety protocols, and your ability to present your results in an organized fashion. The final exam will cover the theoretical basis of operation of some of the equipment at hand (total 15%). Please note that attendance is mandatory in this class. There will be no chance of “making up” for missed labs or assignments.

An entirely different grading method will be applied for those students with their own research projects. Grade assignment for those students will be agreed upon based on their research project, which has to be approved by the instructor. A significant portion of the grade in this case will be based on a research paper, and possibly a public presentation at the end of the semester.

**Grading scheme:** A: > 90%; B: 80 – 89.9%; C: 70 – 79.9%; D: 60 – 69.9%; F: < 60%.

**Computer Requirements**: All students should have basic knowledge of MS-Excel for basic data manipulation, calculations and plotting

**Policy for Students with Disabilities:** Marshall University is committed to equal opportunity in education for all students, including those with physical, learning and psychological disabilities.  University policy states that it is the responsibility of students with disabilities to contact the Office of Disabled Student Services (DSS) in Prichard Hall 117, phone 304 696-2271 to provide documentation of their disability.  Following this, the DSS Coordinator will send a letter to each of the student’s instructors outlining the academic accommodation he/she will need to ensure equality in classroom experiences, outside assignment, testing and grading.  The instructor and student will meet to discuss how the accommodation(s) requested will be provided.  For more information, please visit <http://www.marshall.edu/disabled> or contact Disabled Student Services Office at Prichard Hall 11, phone 304-696-2271.”

**Academic Integrity**: Academic dishonesty as defined in the undergraduate catalogue on page 101 will not be tolerated. Violations of the honor code may result in the assignment of an “F grade” for the class, and further disciplinary action as defined in the catalogue.

**Final Thoughts**: Please keep in mind that I am **committed** to making this course a positive experience for everyone, so don’t hesitate to ask me questions, or approach me with problems that you are facing in this class. Feel free to stop by my office to discuss your progress in class or go over problems with your research project.

**References:**

Goldstein, Joseph I.; Newbury, Dale E.; Echlin, Patrick; Joy, David C.; Fiori, Charles; Lifshin, Eric, 1981. Scanning Electron Microscopy and X-Ray Microanalysis: A Test for Biologists, materials Scientists, and Geologists. New York: Plenum Press.

Moore, D. M., and Reynolds, R. C., 1997. X-Ray Diffraction and the Identification and Analysis of Clay Minerals, Oxford University Press.

Miscellaneous, 1991. Analytical Methods for the Liberty Spectrometer System. Varian Australia.

Reed, S.J.B., 1996. Electron Microprobe Analysis and Scanning Electron Microscopy in Geology. Cambridge University Press,Great Britain .

Rothery, E., 1988. Analytical Methods for graphite tube atomizers. Varian Australia.

Wainerdi, R. E., Uken, E. A., 1971. Modern Methods of Geochemical Analysis. Plenum Press, New York, London.

**Syllabus & Tentative Lab Schedule**

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| **Week** | **Topic** | **Equipment** |
| 1Jan 13 | Basic principles and objectives; safety measures; grand tour of the labs |  |
| 1 & 2Jan 20 | Sample crushing, sieving and separation of minerals | Frantz Isodynamic separator |
| 3, 4Jan 27 – Feb 3 | Principles of X-ray Diffractometry | XRD |
| 5Feb 10 | Analysis of aqueous solutions I: Mixing & Dilution; Preparation of standards | ICP-AES |
| 6Feb 17 | Analysis of aqueous solutions II: Standard Addition techniques | ICP-AES |
| 7Feb 24 | Analysis of aqueous solutions III: Trace amounts | GF-AAS |
| 8March 2 | Chemistry of Natural waters: Cations & anions | Collection; filtration; acidification; pH meter; conductivity; spectrophotometers; Hach digital titrator and kits |
| 9March 16 | Bulk chemical analysis of rock samples: major elements | Single solution method; muffle furnace; ICP-AES |
| 10March 30 | Bulk chemical analysis of rock samples: trace elements  | Acid digestion method; ICP-AES |
| 11April 7 | Analysis of minerals in thin section: Principles & imaging | SEM |
| 12April 14 | Analysis of minerals in thin section: quantitative analysis | SEM |
| 13April 21 – May 1 | Microthermometry of fluid inclusions | Linkam Stage |
| 14April 28 | Other techniques (XRF, EPMA, ICP-MS). | Lecture only |

**Final Exam:** May 5 8:00 – 10:00 a.m.

**N.B.** This syllabus, grade assignment, and timetable are tentative, and can be changed according to status of equipment, and student projects.