

Big Bend Seminar/Field Excursion

GLY 410 - Syllabus - Spring 2015

Instructors:

- Dr. Mitch Scharman, Assistant Professor of Geology
 - S163, 304-696-5435, scharman@marshall.edu
 - Office hours: W & F 11-noon; T & Th 9-11am
- Dr. Bill Niemann, Associate Professor & Chair of Geology
 - S171, 304-696-6721, niemann@marshall.edu
 - Office hours: MWF 11-11:30am; M 2-4pm; T & Th 10:30-11am;
- Dr. Frank (Robin) O'Keefe, Associate Professor of Biology
 - S267, 304-696-2427, okeefef@marshall.edu

Seminar Meeting Times

- Mondays 4-4:50 pm in S165

Texts

- Gray, J.E. & Page, W.R., eds. 2008. *Geological, Geochemical, and Geophysical Studies, U.S. Geological Survey in Big Bend National Park, Texas, USGS Circular 1327*. Downloadable free of charge:
 - <http://pubs.usgs.gov/circ/1327/>
- Henry, C.D., 1998. *Geology of Big Bend Ranch State Park Texas*, Guidebook 27, Texas Bureau of Economic Geology. (Provided to students free by Marshall).
- Maxwell, R.A., 1968. *The Big Bend of the Rio Grande: A Guide to the Rocks, Landscape, Geologic History, and Settlers of the Area of Big Bend National Park*. Guidebook 7, Bureau of Economic Geology, University of Texas at Austin. (The old standard).
- Big Bend Virtual Field Trips:
 - <http://prism.texarkanacollege.edu/bbvirtual/bbvft.html>
 - <http://www.maroon.com/bigbend/intro/index.html>
- Additional reading materials will be provided in class, or on Blackboard

Grading

- Seminar Grade

Assignments/quizzes	20%
Attendance	10%
Post-trip presentation	20%
- Field Excursion Grade

Field Logbook	10%
Field Projects.....	30%
Contributions to Group Field Projects.....	10%
Total.....	100%

Scale for final grade:

A: 100-90% B: 89-80% C: 79-70% D: 69-60%; F: Anything less than 60%

There will be no curve applied to grades. If you feel your assignment has been assessed unfairly, please discuss the grade with us during office hours. Assignments are generally graded within 10 days.

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General Field Excursion Logistics

- Saturday, March 14
 - Depart Huntington/Charleston/Other
 - Arrive El Paso, TX
 - Overnight in El Paso motel
- Sunday, March 15
 - Drive to Big Bend (~6 hours)
 - Set up camp at Campground
- Monday-Thursday, March 16-19
 - Field activities/camping
- Friday, March 20
 - Return to El Paso, TX
 - Overnight in El Paso motel
- Saturday, 21 March
 - Depart El Paso, TX
 - Arrive Huntington/Charleston/Other

Be prepared for the southwestern desert weather, climate, and terrain. In particular, wear appropriate clothing, sturdy hiking boots, a daypack, and plenty of water. Be sure to bring along a notebook, ruler, mechanical pencils, clipboard, Brunton, etc. A Rite-in-the-Rain field book is required. For logistical reasons there will be no make-up opportunities for field trips.

Accommodations

For any student academic accommodations for disabilities that qualify under the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, please contact the Dean of Students Affairs office for information, policies, and procedures. Any accommodations must first be discussed and approved with the Dean of Students Affairs office, and I must receive official notification before action can be taken.

Academic Responsibility, University Policies

Next to fraud, plagiarism and cheating are the ultimate sins in the academic world and are grounds for failure on an assignment. In all papers and presentations be sure to give credit where credit is due. When you use another investigator's data, state their ideas, paraphrase their conclusions, or quote them directly, you must cite appropriately! You must distinguish between general knowledge (which does not need a reference) and other material in your paper. Be sure the reader can distinguish between your ideas and the ideas of others. If you have any questions on this subject, please come and see me well in advance of the assignment's due date.

Any suspected violations of these academic standards will be addressed accordingly, and if necessary, reported to the Dean of Students office.

By your continued enrollment in this course, you agree with the policies in this syllabus and to the University Policies listed below:

Excused Absence Policy for Undergraduates; Computing Services Acceptable Use; Inclement Weather; Dead Week; Students with Disabilities; Academic Forgiveness; Academic Probation and Suspension; Academic Rights and Responsibilities of Students; Affirmative Action; Sexual Harassment

The full text of each policy is available at:

<http://muwww-new.marshall.edu/academic-affairs/policies/>

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Seminar Schedule

Date	Seminar Topic	Reading Assignment*
Jan. 12	Syllabus/Organization	
Jan. 19 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday - No Class		
Jan. 26/Feb. 2	Big Bend Paleozoic Geology; Stratigraphy Assignment	Page et al. (2008) p. 3-4; Ross (1979); Hickman et al. (2009)
Feb. 9	Mesozoic Geology	Page et al. (2008) p. 4-7; Lehman (1986); Lehman (1991); Erdlac (1990); English & Johnston (2004)
Feb. 16	Mesozoic Geology (cont.); Quiz 1	
Feb. 23/Mar. 2	Cenozoic Geology	Page et al. (2008) p. 7-10; Miggins et al. (2008); Keller & Baldrige (1999)
Mar. 9	Surficial Geology; Quiz 2; Strat Assignment Due	Margaret & Williams (2008)
Mar. 14-21 - Big Bend Field Excursion		
Mar. 23	Group Presentation Assignments	
Mar. 30	No Class	
TBA	Group Presentations	