

SYLLABUS  
Geology 318 – Rio Grande Rift and New Mexico

**FIELD STUDIES IN GEOLOGY**

Instructor: Prof. Scott White, Rm. 314 EWSC, (803) 777-6304  
swhite@geol.sc.edu *Office hours:* Tues. 10:15-11:15 or by appointment

**Recommended texts:**

Chronic, H. (1987) *Roadside Geology of New Mexico*: Mountain Press Publishing Company, Inc., Missoula, Montana  
Bevier, M. L. (2005) *Introduction to Field Geology*: McGraw-Hill, Toronto, Canada.

**Grading**

This course is offered on a pass/fail basis. A passing grade will be assigned to those who participate in the field trip, keeping a field notebook describing field trip stops, geologic observations and insights.

**Required Materials**

Field Notebook: Recommended notebook is 5"x7" hardbound. Pencils. Erasers. See note below regarding logistics and fieldwork.

**Class Meetings**

Are in the field (see below) from Mar 3 – Mar 10. The class is physically rigorous, so if you are not able to run up and down hills while singing, get in shape before we go. We will also have two meetings prior to the trip to discuss class format and logistics.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES AND LEARNING OUTCOMES:** This course introduces students to the practice of field geology and well as providing exposure to geological environments that exemplify fundamental Earth processes. Students will develop an appreciation for the relevance of geology to landscapes and societies, passage of geologic time, and interpretation of the rock record. Upon completion of this course, students should have a basic understanding of how to conduct geologic field work, taking field notes, measuring geologic structures, geologic map reading and field safety. Geoscience employers frequently say that they look for the ability to think, interpret geology in the field, and communicate. This class helps you develop those skills.

**Field Trips**

“Fieldwork can be one of the most rewarding aspects of geology, but it is not always comfortable” - Dr. D. Barbeau. “Be Prepared” – Boy Scout Motto. Patience, flexibility, respect for others, and a good sense of humor will help all of us through any unexpected difficulties that might arise. Sturdy and comfortable shoes are essential. Carry a raincoat, a sweater, a winter hat, water and snacks in a comfortable backpack. A more comprehensive list of helpful camping gear will be provided. The Department of Earth & Ocean Sciences has the vast majority of camping and cooking supplies required for the trip, although you will need to arrange for your own outdoor clothing, sleeping pad and sleeping bag. Many of these items can be rented for a nominal fee from the University at the Strom Thurmond Wellness Center.