

Casper College Course Syllabus

GEOL 2465 – 01 Research Problems in Geology

Semester/Year: Fall 2015

Instructor's Name: Dr. Kent Sundell

**Instructor's Contact
Information:**

Office: Tate Museum Room 103

Office Phone: 268-2498 (O) or 307-259-5258 (cell-text) Please call prior to 10:00 p.m.

Email: ksundell@caspercollege.edu.

Office Hours: MWF 8-9 am MW 12-1 pm

Course Description: A comprehensive research study in geology is required. The topic must be selected in consultation with the instructor. Upon completing the project, the student will present a written or an oral report to the instructor.

Goals: This course is designed to give more advanced students of geology and earth science the opportunity to explore, research and discuss with an individual instructor a particular topic of interest in geology or earth science today. The student will, at the end of the course, understand the scientific evidence justifying the need for each project and why it is scientifically important in the local, regional, and worldwide perspectives. The student will gain skills in researching topics, critically reading papers, and presenting results of the investigation. The student will use appropriate technology and information to conduct research.

Outcomes: (a variety of these Casper College gen. ed. outcomes may apply to each project)

1. Demonstrate effective oral and written communication
2. Use the scientific method
3. Solve problems using critical thinking and creativity
4. Demonstrate knowledge of diverse cultures and historical perspectives
5. Appreciate aesthetic and creative activities
6. Use appropriate technology and information to conduct research
7. Describe the value of personal, civic, and social responsibilities
8. Use quantitative analytical skills to evaluate and process numerical data

Evaluation Criteria:

Student will usually be evaluated by writing a term paper or oral discussions and demonstrations about the research project. Alternatively, summarization of research data on websites, in publications, or useful GIS data banks may be allowed depending on goals of the project.

Field Trips: A limited number of all day weekend field trips may be scheduled. You will be contacted by email about upcoming field trips.

The student(s) will be expected to meet with the instructor at preset intervals and discuss progress towards completing the project.

APPROXIMATE POINT DISTRIBUTION: Term paper 100 points

TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE: 100

GRADE CUTOFFS: A : 90 %+ ; B: 80 - 89% ; C : 70-79%; D : 60-69%; F: <60%

Student Rights and Responsibilities: Please refer to the Casper College Student Conduct and Judicial Code for information concerning your rights and responsibilities as a Casper College Student.

Class Policies: Last Date to Change to Audit Status or to Withdraw with a W Grade:

No drop slips will be signed after the official deadline!

Official Means of Communication: Casper College faculty and staff will employ the student's assigned Casper College email account as a primary method of communication. Students are responsible to check their account regularly.

Chain of Command: If you have any problems with this class, you should first contact the instructor in order to solve the problem. If you are not satisfied with the solution offered by the instructor, you should then take your problem through the appropriate chain of command starting with the department head, then the school dean, and lastly the vice president for academic affairs.

Academic Dishonesty - Cheating & Plagiarism: Casper College demands intellectual honesty. Proven plagiarism or any form of dishonesty associated with the academic process can result in the offender failing the course in which the offense was committed or expulsion from school. See the Casper College Student Code of Conduct.

ADA Accommodations Policy: It is the policy of Casper College to provide appropriate accommodations to any student with a documented disability. If you have a known accommodation in this course, please make an appointment to see me at your earliest convenience. To request academic accommodations, students must first consult with the College's disability Services councilor located in the Gateway Building, Room 344, (307) 268-2557, bheuer@caspercollege.edu