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GEO 231.01: Geosciences Field Methods

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This course introduces basic field methods used by geoscientists to collect, process and interpret data concerning rock formations, structures, and landforms. Each Tuesday, until the snow flies, we will go into the field to make observations and gather data. Weekly assignments will be due the following Tuesday. Grades are based on assignments, and each assignment has equal worth. After snow comes, we will have classroom sessions and assignments.

A good, waterproof field book is required. Each week, we will collect and grade your field book. You will be expected to take good, legible, and coherent field notes. Reference materials are available on the internet.

Approximate schedule of field trips:

Sep 2 Alberton – Measure and describe Belt strata.
9 Rattler Gulch – Traverse vertical section of Paleozoic strata. Reading, interpreting, and locating on geologic map.
16 Rattler Gulch - Structural traverse of syncline. Making structural cross-section.
23 Rainbow Bend – Measure structural features. Collecting structural data on bedding, fractures, and faults using geology compass. Stereonet presentation of data.
30 Beavertail/Bearmouth – Volcanic/plutonic units. Describing volcanic units and determining their thickness on pace and compass/GPS traverse. Plot on GIS base.

Oct 7 Bass Creek – Metamorphic fabrics
14 French Town - Cenozoic sediments and structures, landslide.
21 GSA
28 Campus – Groundwater. Interpreting landforms and making cross-section using Total Station surveying equipment.
Nov 4 ELECTION DAY - VOTE !!

11 HOLIDAY


Nov 25 - Dec 2 Classroom.