

Academic Year/course: 2021/22

26404 - Fundamentals of Geology and Geological Mapping

Syllabus Information

Academic Year: 2021/22

Subject: 26404 - Fundamentals of Geology and Geological Mapping

Faculty / School: 100 - Facultad de Ciencias

Degree: 296 - Degree in Geology
588 - Degree in Geology

ECTS: 9.5

Year: 1

Semester: First semester

Subject Type: Basic Education

Module:

1. General information

2. Learning goals

3. Assessment (1st and 2nd call)

4. Methodology, learning tasks, syllabus and resources

4.1. Methodological overview

The methodology followed in this course is oriented towards the achievement of the learning objectives. A wide range of teaching and learning tasks are implemented, such as lectures, laboratory sessions, problem-solving sessions and fieldwork.

This is the first course in which new students get in touch with Geology. So, it is designed to make the student understand planet Earth as a dynamic system and Geology as an applied, multidisciplinary and also dynamic science. The student has to learn the basics of Geology (principles, terminology and basic concepts) and develop the skills to read both topographic and geological maps, to understand the information they contain and to extract sections from them. The course also includes three one-day field trips in which the student is instructed in the methodology of observation, description and data collection in the field and also in the translation of that information to a topographic map, making a geological map.

4.2. Learning tasks

This course is organized as follows:

- **Lectures.** Four 50-minutes sessions per week. Theory basis of Geology and Cartography.
- **Laboratory sessions.** Four two-hour sessions. Description and identification of minerals, rocks and fossils.
- **Problem-solving sessions.** Reading, understanding and making of simple geological maps and sections. Nine two-hour sessions, some of them related to data acquired during fieldwork activities.
- **Fieldwork.** Three one-day field trips to different areas of the Iberian Chain or the Pyrenees are scheduled into this activity. Introduction to field geology and geological mapping.
- **Tutorials.**

Teaching and assessment activities will be carried out on site for as long and as much as possible. This scenario could change if safety regulations related to the covid19 crisis recommended online or alternate on site and of site activities with limited-size groups.

4.3. Syllabus

This course will address the following topics:

Lectures

- **Topic 1.** Introduction to Geology.
- **Topic 2.** Planet Earth: location in the Solar system, shape, structure and composition. Introduction to global dynamics.
- **Topic 3.** Minerals and crystals. Features of crystalline matter. Properties of the minerals: identification and classification of minerals.
- **Topic 4.** Sedimentary rocks. Features, classification and sedimentary processes.
- **Topic 5.** Igneous rocks. Features, classification and processes that create them.
- **Topic 6.** Metamorphic rocks. Concept, factors and main types of metamorphism.
- **Topic 7.** The topographic map.
- **Topic 8.** Geological maps and geological cross-sections.
- **Topic 9.** Geological mapping of horizontal and dipping geological successions.
- **Topic 10.** Geological mapping of folds.
- **Topic 11.** Geological mapping of faults.
- **Topic 12.** Plate tectonics. Development of basins and mountain ranges. Introduction to structural geology.
- **Topic 13.** Dynamics of Earth's fluid masses: atmosphere and hydrosphere.
- **Topic 14.** External geodynamics: geological processes and geomorphology.
- **Topic 15.** Time in Geology. Absolute and relative dating methods. Biostratigraphy.
- **Topic 16.** Introduction to Historical and Regional Geology

Practice sessions

Section I. Identification and description of minerals, rocks and fossils

- **Session I.1.** Identification and description of minerals.
- **Session I.2.** Identification and description of sedimentary rocks.
- **Session I.3.** Identification and description of igneous and metamorphic rocks.
- **Session I.4.** Identification and description of fossils.

Section II. Reading, understanding and making geological maps (some of the topics should be combined in the same practice session or divided into more than one session).

- **Session II.1.** The topographic map.
- **Session II.2.** Topographic profiles.
- **Session II.3.** Geological mapping of horizontal stratigraphic sequences.
- **Session II.4.** Geological mapping of dipping stratigraphic sequences.
- **Session II.5.** Geological mapping of stratigraphic sequences with discontinuities.
- **Session II.6.** Geological sections of horizontal and dipping stratigraphic sequences and simple geological structures.

Fieldwork

Three one-day field trips in the Iberian Chain or the Pyrenees are scheduled in this course to study and map different rock units, identifying structural relationships and regional geology.

Attendance to these field trips is compulsory as the results and reports are used and evaluated in the practical sessions.

4.4. Course planning and calendar

The dates for the field trips are fixed and published in the web of the Earth Science Department (<https://cienciatierra.unizar.es/docencia/informacion-general-del-grado>) prior to the beginning of the course.

Further information concerning the timetable, classroom, office hours, assessment dates (<https://ciencias.unizar.es/consultar-examenes>) and other details regarding this course will be provided on the first day of class or please refer to the Faculty of Sciences website and Moodle.

4.5. Bibliography and recommended resources

<http://psfunizar10.unizar.es/br13/egAsignaturas.php?codigo=26404>