Course Prefix and Number: GOL 106  Credits: 4

Course Title: Historical Geology

Course Description: Traces the evolution of the earth and life through time. Presents scientific theories of the origin of the earth and life and interprets rock and fossil record. Prerequisite: GOL 105 or equivalent. Lecture 3 hours. Laboratory 3 hours. Total 6 hours per week.

General Course Purpose: This course is designed to satisfy 4 credits of a laboratory science for the Science AS, Social Sciences AS, and Liberal Arts degree programs.

Course Prerequisites and Co-requisites:
Prerequisite: GOL 105 or equivalent

Course Objectives:
Upon completing the course, the student will be able to
a. Understand the concept of geologic time and age dating;
b. Understand organic evolution and the fossil record;
c. Understand the origin of Planet Earth and its atmosphere and oceans;
d. Understand the physical and biological evolution of the planet through time; and
e. Understand the importance of humankind’s inheritance from Planet Earth and our responsibilities as stewards of the planet.

Major Topics to Be Included:
a. Time, Fossils, and Evolution
b. Relative and Absolute Dating
c. Origin of Planet Earth, Cryptozoic History, and Early Life on the Planet
d. The Paleozoic Era
e. The Mesozoic Era and the Age of Reptiles
f. The Cenozoic Era and the Age of Mammals
g. The Pleistocene Epoch and the Evolution of Humans
h. The Future of the Planet
i. The Geology of Virginia

Effective Date of Course Content Summary: February 16, 2009