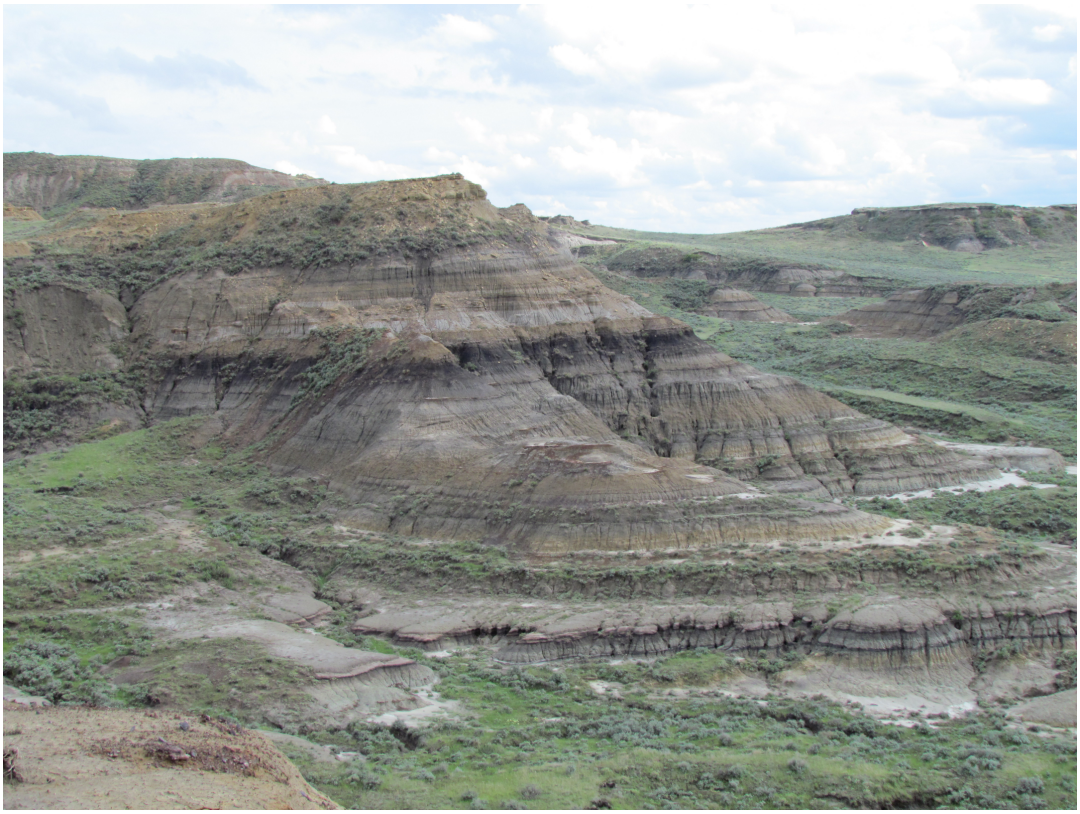
Syllabus (GLY4750L)

Field Methods Fall 2025 (2 credits)



I. General Information

Meeting days and times: W 9-10
Class location: WM202
Instructor(s):

Name: Courtney Sprain
Office Building/Number: 355 Williamson Hall
Phone: 352-294-6319
Email: csprain@ufl.edu
Office Hours: Th 1-3 PM (Room 265 Williamson Group)

Teaching Assistant(s):
Name: Hee Jun Cheong
Office Building/Number: 374 Williamson Hall
Email: heejuncheong@ufl.edu
Office Hours: M 4-5 PM (Room 271 Williamson Hall)

Course Description

This course is designed to help prepare you for field camp. Here, you will learn the fundamentals of geologic map creation, in addition to other important field skills. It is expected that your work is professionally completed, accurate and follows the expectations required.

The course is rigorous, time-consuming and graded very thoroughly. We spend a lot of time grading assignments and commenting on your work. *Please take the time to read our comments and avoid repeating the mistake*. Because this is a prep course for the capstone, you must receive a grade of "C" or higher to be able to register for GLY4400C (Structural Geology) which itself is a requirement for GLY4790 Summer Field Camp.

NOTE: This course is intended ONLY for BS majors attending field camp in 2025. It is not suitable for BA majors or others outside the department.

Text: None required, materials will be handed out in class.

Field Exercise: There will be a 5-day field trip Oct 3-7. All geology classes will receive automatic permission, but if you need a note for other classes, let me know. We will be camping on this field trip. I will discuss what is required for the trip and offer suggestions for rental and/or purchase of tents/sleeping bags/pads.

Prerequisites

Prereq: GLY 3105C or GLY 2100C, or instructor permission. MUST PLAN TO ATTEND FIELD CAMP SUMMER 2026

General Education Designation:

All General Education area objectives can be found here.

Course Materials

- 360 protractor: Available through Amazon or other vendors
- Metal ruler
- Adobe Illustrator, CorelDraw or other approved Drawing Package: Note Adobe is preferred BUT YOU DO NOT NEED TO BUY THE MOST RECENT VERSION.
- Colored Pencils: Available on Amazon and other vendors
- Rite in the Rain Geology Field Notebook: Available through Amazon and other vendors
- Calculator (can use phone)
- Rolling ruler (suggested but not required): Available through Amazon or other vendors)
- Rock Hammer: These range in price. Estwing is highest but other options available through Amazon and other vendors
- Hand lens: Illuminated are nice but not required. Get a triplet available on Amazon and other vendors

Other Materials:

Materials Fee: $59.48 (field trip)

II. Student Learning Outcomes
A student who successfully completes this course will be able to:

- Identify and describe minerals and rocks (Assessed through Homeworks, Quizzes, Midterm, and Final).
- Define geologic time, stratigraphy, and landforms (Assessed through Homeworks, Quizzes, Midterm, and Final).
- Synthesize analog and digital datasets to produce geologic maps (Assessed through Homeworks, Quizzes, Midterm, and Final).
- Apply the scientific method to the analysis of published and self-generated data (Assessed through Homeworks, Quizzes, Midterm, and Final).
- Use computers for the presentation of geologic maps and data (Assessed through Homeworks).
- Solve geologic problems in teams and present the result of such collaboration effectively (Assessed through Homeworks)

III. Graded Work

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found in the Catalog.

Homeworks and Quizzes (10 assignments, 1 syllabus and 2 geologic time scale quizzes): 775 pts.
Mid-Term Exam: 150 pts.
Final Exam: 150 pts.

Note: Instructional materials for this course consist of only those materials specifically reviewed, selected, and assigned by the instructor(s). The instructor(s) is only responsible for these instructional materials.

Rubrics–How will I be graded?

There are basically 3 types of exercises/exams/quizzes in this course. The most complex grading comes from your map/cross-section work. To help you understand what we will be looking for, there is a detailed grading rubric in the first mapping File folder (Assignment #4). *It is also very important for you to read/note the feedback we provide*. That feedback will help you in

subsequent assignments. Neatness is a must. There are examples in the assignment files for each type of exercise.

Scale/3-Point and Other Exercises: These are mostly quantitative exercises that require you to calculate the correct answers. To get full credit, you should show your work. For example, when converting units (meters to miles), show the equations with units. If the problem requires multiple steps to reach the correct answer, provide each step in a clear and logical manner (see example). For 3-point problems, follow the methods outlined in lecture.

Late Work: Late Assignments lose 20% per day. One 'free' late assignment will be accepted per semester, per student without penalty provided it is turned in no later than midnight on the Sunday following the due date.

Extra Credit: I will add *up to 5 points* to each homework for students who fix errors in the graded assignment and turn in the corrected version within 1 week. You must address/correct all errors. That requires you to explain what the error was and how to correct it going forward.

Repeated Errors: Once we have commented on, and noted an error in your homework, you are expected to NOT REPEAT the error. Point penalties are DOUBLED on subsequent assignments for repeated errors. REVIEW OUR COMMENTS!

Grading Scale

A: 100-92%
A-: 90-91.99%
B+: 87-89.99%
B: 82-86.99%
B-: 80-81.99%
C+: 77-79.99%
C: 72-76.99%

(the following are all failing grades for the major)
C-: 70-71.99%
D+: 67-69.99%
D: 62-66.99%
D-: 60-61.99%
E: <60%

See the UF Catalog's "Grades and Grading Policies" for information on how UF assigns grade points.

Note: A minimum grade of C is required to earn General Education credit.

Date	Topic	Readings/Preparation	Work Due
August 27, 2025	Introduction to the course. Topographic maps.		
September 3, 2025	More work with topographic maps.		09/10/2025
September 10, 2025	Strike and dip. Intro to Bruntons. Quiz on geological time scale.		09/17/2025
September 17, 2025	Simple geological maps. Field notebook and rock/mineral descriptions.		09/24/2025
September 24, 2025	More work with geological maps.		10/01/2025
October 1, 2025	Stratigraphic sections. Review common igneous and sedimentary structures.		10/3/2025
October 3, 2025	Field Trip	through Oct 7, 2024	10/22/2025
October 8, 2025	Introduction to Stereonets.		10/22/2025
October 15, 2025	**Mid-Term Exam**	**review all materials**	
October 22, 2025	More complex geological maps (synforms and antiforms).		10/29/2025

Date	Topic	Readings/Preparation	Work Due
October 29, 2025	Advanced Stereonets	print out and prepare stereonets	11/05/2025
November 5, 2025	Advanced Stereonets		11/12/2025
November 12, 2025	Advanced Field Topics Digital Use		12/3/2025
November 19, 2025	**Final Exam Part I: Geological Maps and Cross-Sections.**		
November 26, 2025	Thanksgiving Break		
December 3, 2025	**Final Exam Part II: Scales, Topo Sheet, Time Scale, Stereonets, 3 point problems**		

V. University Policies and Resources

This course complies with all UF academic policies. For information on those polices and for resources for students, please: https://syllabus.ufl.edu/syllabus-policy/uf-syllabus-policy-links/.

Procedure for conflict resolution
Any classroom issues, disagreements or grade disputes should be discussed first between the instructor and the student. Be prepared to provide documentation of the problem, as well as all graded materials for the semester. Issues that cannot be resolved departmentally will be referred to the University Ombuds Office (http://www.ombuds.ufl.edu; 352-392-1308) or the Dean of Students Office (http://www.dso.ufl.edu; 352-392-1261).