GEO 320L
Introductory Field Geology
Department of Geological Sciences
Jackson School of Geosciences
Maymester -- May, 2012
Unique # 80835
Instructor: Mark Cloos, cloos@mail.utexas.edu, JGB 6.112, 471-4170

This is a Field Geology course designed for students who are NOT geoscience majors. Participants have been majors in UTeach, Geography, Biology and other sciences, business, pre-law, journalism. The only prerequisite is Upper-Division student status and GEO 303 (Introduction to Geology) or GEO 401 (Physical Geology) or a comparable geoscience course with the consent of instructor.

Field Geology is learned primarily by actual experience in the field. Course content includes:
- learning the geology of central Texas through a series of field excursions and exercises
- interpreting topographic and geologic maps and reading the rock record
- using aerial photographs as a base for making geological maps
- using the geologist’s Brunton compass to measure the orientations of strata and faults
- describing sedimentary rock sequences to interpret ancient environments of deposition
- constructing geologic maps from aerial photograph bases.

Major projects: Austin area geology including mapping McKinney Falls State Park (SP). Overnight field trips with exercises in eastern and western Llano uplift that include visits to Inks Lake SP, Enchanted Rock SP, and many other locations on roads less traveled.

Format: Exercises are based in and near Austin except for two 3-day overnight trips out of town. Field geology includes lots of walking, some climbing of rocks and fences, scrambling through brush, etc., and thus the course is moderately strenuous.

Grading: Course registration is on a pass-fail basis.

Dates: During Intersession - "Maymester" in the interval May 7-8 and 16-18 and 20-29, 2012. The calendar contains a more detailed schedule. Because Intersession is so short, we have official permission to begin GEO 320L during May 7 and 8, the two “dead days” set aside for study. During this time will review and focus on techniques needed for the rest of the course. First Class meeting: 9:00 a.m., Monday, May 7, Room 2.306, JGB.

Cost: The cost (fee) is based on the Flat Rate Tuition rate for the college in which you are enrolled. Out-of-state residents pay more tuition than Texas residents. Consult this web site: www.utexas.edu/business/accounting/sar/t_f_rates.html. You must also pay a field course expense fee of approximately $380 for materials, transportation, and overnight accommodations out of Austin.