Graduate Program

Candidates pursuing the Master of Science program in geology must complete seven graduate courses (21 cr.) and a thesis (9 cr.). Students may select courses from the graduate courses offered in the department according to their fields of interest. Note that the GRE general test is required for admission, but the GRE subject test is no longer required.

GEOL 303  Geochemistry 3.0; 3 cr.
An application of chemical concepts to the evolution of the earth, particularly its weathering, magmatic and metamorphic cycles, and the distribution of elements; cosmochemistry, crystal chemistry, and aqueous geo-chemistry. Prerequisite: GEOL 211.

GEOL 304  Geophysics I 3.0; 3 cr.
An introduction to seismic, gravity, and magnetic methods and their interpretation procedures and applications in the exploration for petroleum and other resources.

GEOL 305  Geophysics II 3.0; 3 cr.
A course on electrical, radiometric, and thermal geophysical methods, as well as well logging for general geophysical applications and their methods of interpretation. Pre- or corequisites: GEOL 221 and GEOL 222.

GEOL 306  Economic Minerals Geology 3.0; 3 cr.
A course on the occurrence and classification of mineral ore deposits and theories of their formation; ore forming processes and ore deposit models; advanced techniques to evaluate ore genesis; and mineral exploration techniques. Prerequisite: GEOL 211.

GEOL 307  Advanced Petroleum Geology 3.0; 3 cr.
A course that covers the origin, migration, and accumulation of petroleum; surface and subsurface geological and geophysical exploration methods and production, and development processes; and Middle East hydrocarbon exploration and development.

GEOL 308  Alternate Energy Sources 3.0; 3 cr.
A course on energy and energy use, including a detailed treatment of non-fossil fuel energy options including nuclear, biomass, hydro, wind, solar, and geothermal methods, with practical applications.
GEOL 310 Global Tectonics 3.0; 3 cr.
A course on large-scale processes of rock deformation within the Earth, the theory of plate tectonics, and the origins and modes of deformation of major tectonic features. These include ocean ridges and continental rifts, transform and transcurrent faults, subduction zones, and mountain ranges. Prerequisite: GEOL 213.

GEOL 313 Photogeology 2.2; 3 cr.
A course on the principles of air photo interpretation and remote sensing; the construction of planimetric geological maps, profiles and mosaics from vertical photographs using pocket and mirror stereoscopes; and an introduction to analysis of satellite imagery.

GEOL 317 Micropaleontology 2.2; 3 cr.
An introduction to the study of the main groups of microfossils and their application, with emphasis on the foraminifera, and techniques in their preparation for examination.

GEOL 318 Hydrogeology 3.0; 3 cr.
A course on the fundamentals of hydrogeology; groundwater occurrence, movement, development and management; pumping tests; and groundwater chemistry, quality, and contamination.

GEOL 319 Geostatistics 2.2; 3 cr.
This course deals with the study and application of different statistical techniques of interest to the geological sciences. Topics to be covered include analysis of sequences of data, map analysis, and analysis of multivariate data. Prerequisite: GEOL 213 or consent of instructor.

GEOL 320 Graduate Seminar 3.0; 3 cr.
Seminars given by the department. Graduate students attending the course are required to cover a particular theme on one of the various aspects of the geology of the Middle East, such as earthquakes, tectonism, and stratigraphy of the region, magmatism in the Nubian shield.

GEOL 321 Diagenesis I: Advanced Petrography of Sedimentary Rocks 3.0; 3 cr.
A course that covers some advanced petrographic techniques used in the study of sedimentary rocks (e.g., conventional and cathodoluminescence microscopy, scanning electron microscopy), major diagenetic processes, and the resultant products in sedimentary environments. Prerequisites: GEOL 212, GEOL 214, and GEOL 222, or consent of instructor. Bi-annually.

GEOL 322 Diagenesis II: Advanced Techniques in Geochemistry of Sedimentary Rocks 3.0; 3 cr.
A course on the various geochemical methods (e.g., trace elements, stable isotopes, radiogenic isotopes, fluid inclusions, and microthermometry) commonly used in the study of diagenesis of both carbonate and clastic reservoirs. Prerequisites: GEOL 212 and GEOL 222; co requisites: GEOL 214 and GEOL 22 or consent of instructor. Bi-annually.

GEOL 323 Geological Oceanography 3.0; 3 cr.
A general introduction to climatic and oceanographic interactions, characteristics of oceans, and a detailed analysis of near shore and coastal environments.

GEOL 324 Engineering Geology I 2.2; 3 cr.
A course on engineering geology and earth materials that focuses on the interaction between engineering and geology in relation to the geotechnical properties of soil and rock mechanics and site investigations.
GEOL 325  Engineering Geology II  3.0; 3 cr.
A course on environmental and applied engineering geology that deals with environmental planning, natural disasters, and terrain evaluation, with special applications to mass movements, geology of man-made structures, and the urban environment.

GEOL 329/330  Selected Topics in Advanced Geology  3 cr.
May be repeated for credit.

GEOL 395A/395B  Comprehensive Exam  0 cr.
Prerequisite: Consent of adviser.

GEOL 399  MS Thesis  9 cr.