

My teaching philosophy in the Geosciences is to promote an understanding of the earth as a functioning system, through a discovery-based learning approach. Emphasis is given to the conceptual basis of the science, leading to an understanding of “how the earth works.” Scientific methods emulating the practice of working earth scientists are used to engage each individual in the process of discovery, which is at the heart of any scientific endeavor. I find this approach to be valuable for the many general education students whose only exposure to science may be through my class and equally valuable to the few geology majors I have had the honor to mentor over the last eighteen years.

My courses typically engage students with diverse technologies ranging from sophisticated computer visualizations of data to 3-D modeling using Play-Doh™. Field work is also emphasized in each of my classes. Each course has a required field “workshop” which emphasizes fieldwork and problem solving over simple “show and tell.” In addition I have offered optional trips available every term to some of the most spectacular locales in California and the American Southwest. Most of these were weekend field “excursions” with a nine-day field “expedition” to the Western Basin and Range Province and Colorado Plateau, being the highlight of each year. I have led field trips into six national parks and an equal number of national monuments, recreation areas and seashores. I have considered our location in California to be an asset for geological education. Most of my majors transfer into four-year programs with a greater understanding of field relationships than their non-transfer counterparts.

**Courses Currently Taught at De Anza College:**

Introductory Geology GEOL 10  
General Oceanography OCEN 10

**Courses Taught at Foothill College:**

Introductory Geoscience GEOL 10  
General Oceanography OCEN 10  
Geology of the National Parks GEOL 3  
Evolution of the Earth GEOL 11  
Natural Disasters GEOL 7  
Tectonics GEOL 25  
Planetary Geology GEOL 23  
Introduction to Volcanology GEOL 22

**Courses Taught at San Jose State University:**

California Geology GEOL 7  
Earth Sciences for Pre-service Teachers GEOL 105  
*Joint with the School of Education*  
General Oceanography GEOL 103

**Courses Taught in the Foothill Field Program**

GEOLOGIC EXCURSIONS: GEOL 95A-E  
Lassen Volcanic National Park  
Yosemite National Park  
Hollister & Pinnacles National Monument  
Long Valley Caldera & Eastern Sierras  
North Coast, Point Reyes National Seashore &  
San Andreas Fault

GEOLOGIC EXCURSIONS: GEOL 99  
Death Valley & Colorado Plateau *offered Spring  
Break (between Winter & Spring Terms)*

**Courses Taught at College of San Mateo:**

Survey of Geology GEOL 100  
Introductory Geology Lab GEOL 101  
Physical Geology GEOL 200

