

Department of Geology

Chairperson:	Salah, Mohamed K.
Professor:	Abdel-Rahman, Abdel-Fattah M.
Associate Professor:	Salah, Mohamed K.
Assistant Professors:	Doummar, Joanna J.; Haidar, Ali T.; Janjuhah, Hammad T.; Nemer, Tony; Sanjuan, Josep
Instructors:	^P Khadra, Wisam M.; ^P Oueida, Raghida S.

The Department of Geology offers programs leading to the degree of Bachelor of Science in Geology and Master of Science degrees in certain areas of the vast field of geological sciences. It also offers a more broadly based program leading to the degree of Bachelor of Science in Petroleum Geosciences. Students wishing to major in Geology or Petroleum Geosciences must secure the approval of the department. In addition, students must have a strong background in sciences and have taken the freshman science program or its equivalent.

The department also offers undergraduate elective courses which include GEOL 101, GEOL 102, GEOL 103, GEOL 104, and GEOL 201 in the area of general Geology, and GEOL 205, GEOL 206, and GEOL 227 in the fields of environmental and planetary Geology.

Field trips are a required part of most Geology courses.

Mission Statement

The Department of Geology at the American University of Beirut is committed in providing the best Geoscience education in the Middle East, via its emphasis on excellence in teaching, and engaging students in research. The aim is to prepare our students to fulfill the needs of this region in terms of its geological nature, its petroleum and mineral resources, as well as groundwater resources, and their role in world economy and environmental implications. This is achieved within the context of learning about the occurrence, distribution and origin of natural resources worldwide. With the structure of our courses which include laboratory components, field components, term papers, oral presentations, and problem-solving assignments, we train our students to observe, analyze, critically evaluate, think independently, and derive their own conclusions. We emphasize the development of the conceptual apparatus, and the unbiased and accurate reporting of field and laboratory data (observation) and its significance in reaching a correct interpretation. In this manner, we promote high ethical professional standards, character, and scientific integrity. The program prepares our students to be life-long learners and well-rounded individuals, who can lead successful careers in the areas of energy and petroleum resources, hydroGeology, mining, geotechnical sciences and related fields.

^P) Part-time

BS Degree in Geology

Students admitted in Geology are eligible to continue in the program provided they obtain, by the end of their third regular term at AUB, a minimum average of 2.2 (or 70) in any three out of these six courses: GEOL 201, GEOL 211, GEOL 212, GEOL 213, GEOL 222, and GEOL 227. Otherwise, they will normally be dropped from the department. Consideration for readmission requires a minimum cumulative average of 2.2 (or 70) overall and a minimum average of 2.2 (or 70) in any three out of these six Geology courses: GEOL 201, GEOL 211, GEOL 212, GEOL 213, GEOL 222, and GEOL 227, and this should be achieved within the following two regular terms (at the very latest) after being dropped from the major. Majors must complete the following courses, in which a general average of 2.2 (or 70) or more must be maintained: GEOL 201, GEOL 203, GEOL 211, GEOL 212, GEOL 213, GEOL 214, GEOL 219, GEOL 221, GEOL 222, GEOL 224, GEOL 226, GEOL 227 and GEOL 229, which is a total of 40 credits. In addition, three required elective courses - CMPS 200 or MATH 201 or STAT 210 and 200-level approved General Education economics and education courses (6 credits) - must be completed. No course may be taken without its prerequisite unless authorized by the departmental faculty. Students are encouraged to take additional Geology courses, such as GEOL 204, GEOL 205, GEOL 209 or GEOL 318, and also other courses from the graduate level, provided other requirements permit. A GIS-course is another highly recommended elective.

The requirements for a BS degree in Geology are 90 credits for students entering the department at the sophomore level, including 40 credits in the major. The distribution of university requirements is as follows:

University General Education Requirements

The General Education requirements are English Communication Skills (6 cr.) and Arabic Communication Skills (3 cr.), Humanities (12 cr.), Social Sciences (6 cr.), Natural Sciences (9 cr.), and Quantitative Thought (3 cr.). Also note that one natural science must be an approved General Education course from outside the major in physics (PHYS 204, PHYS 205 or PHYS 201) or chemistry (CHEM 201, CHEM 202, or CHEM 208).

BS Degree in Petroleum Geosciences

The core courses of the Petroleum Geosciences program (totaling 58 credits) are GEOL 201, GEOL 203, GEOL 211, GEOL 212, GEOL 213, GEOL 214, GEOL 219, GEOL 221, GEOL 222, GEOL 225, GEOL 226, GEOL 227, GEOL 229, CHEM 201, CHEM 208, ACCT 210, MNGT 215, and ECON (GE) as well as one of the following physics courses: PHYS 204, PHYS 205, or PHYS 210. In addition, a required elective course, CMPS 200, MATH 201 or STAT 210, must be completed.

Students admitted in Petroleum Geosciences are eligible to continue in the program provided they obtain, by the end of their third regular term at AUB, a minimum average of 2.2 (or 70) in any three out of the GEOL 201, GEOL 211, GEOL 212, GEOL 213, GEOL 222, and GEOL 227 courses. Otherwise, they will normally be dropped from the department. Consideration for readmission requires a minimum cumulative average of 2.2 (or 70) overall and a minimum average of 2.2 (or 70) in any three out of these six Geology courses: GEOL 201, GEOL 211, GEOL 212, GEOL 213, GEOL 222 and GEOL 227. This should be achieved within the following two regular terms (at the very latest) after being dropped from the major.

The requirements for a BS degree in Petroleum Geosciences are 90 credits for students entering the department at the sophomore level, including 40 credits of Geology courses, 6 credits of chemistry and physics courses, 6 credits of business courses, 3 credits in economics (ECON 211 or 212) and 3 credits in education (EDUC 215 or 230). The distribution of university requirements is as follows:

University General Education Requirements

The General Education requirements are English Communication Skills (6 cr.) and Arabic Communication Skills (3 cr.), Humanities (12 cr.), Social Sciences (6 cr.), Natural Sciences (9 cr.), and Quantitative Thought (3 cr.).

Minor in Geology

To obtain a minor in Geology, students must complete the following core courses: GEOL 201, GEOL 203, GEOL 204, and GEOL 205, in addition to two of the following elective courses: GEOL 209, GEOL 211, and GEOL 222 (for a total of 16 credits).

Course Descriptions

- | | | |
|---|---|-------------------|
| GEOL 101 | The Earth, Present and Past | 3.0; 3 cr. |
| A freshman level survey of the present day processes that shape the earth we live on, such as plate tectonic activity, rock formation and erosion, coupled with an overview of the origin and history of the earth and life. <i>Every term.</i> | | |
| GEOL 102 | Environmental Physical Geography | 3.0; 3 cr. |
| An introduction to the structure, classification, physical processes and characteristics of the earth's atmosphere, hydrosphere and biosphere, dynamics of change, and associated environmental impacts. <i>Every term.</i> | | |
| GEOL 103 | Introduction to Marine Geology | 3.0; 3 cr. |
| A freshman level survey of oceanic geological processes, wave dynamics, submarine springs, marine economic mineral resources, marine communities, pollution, global change, and marine-related environmental issues. <i>Every term.</i> | | |
| GEOL 104 | Natural Disasters | 3.0; 3 cr. |
| A freshman level course covering events involving natural forces that have major devastating effects on humankind. These include mud flows, landslides and slope failure, earthquakes, tsunamis, explosive eruptions and volcanic hazards, meteoritic impact and mass extinctions, hurricanes and tornadoes, flooding, and forest fires. <i>Every term.</i> | | |
| GEOL 201 | Physical Geology | 3.0; 3 cr. |
| An introduction to minerals, igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic rocks, geological structures, and external earth processes, including the geologic work of streams, glaciers, groundwater, wind, and plate tectonic theory. <i>Every term.</i> | | |

- GEOL 210 Geomorphology 3.0; 3 cr.**
 An introduction to the study of land forms and the interaction of external geological forces and erosion agents with the structure and composition of their surface rocks. This course is also an examination of the interaction between the internal and external earth processes responsible for the development of land forms. *Prerequisites: GEOL 201 and GEOL 203, or consent of instructor. Annually.*
- GEOL 211 Crystallography and Physical Mineralogy 2.2; 3 cr.**
 An introduction to the study and classification of crystals; properties of minerals as related to their crystal structure; identification, description, and classification of minerals. This course entails practical work with crystal models and hand specimens of common minerals. *Annually.*
- GEOL 212 Optical Mineralogy 2.2; 3 cr.**
 An introduction to the theory of crystal optics, the polarizing microscope, and methods of mineral identification based on their optical properties. This course is also a systematic study of the common rock forming minerals in thin section. *Prerequisite: GEOL 211 or consent of instructor. Annually.*
- GEOL 213 Structural Geology 2.2; 3 cr.**
 Introduction to the study of rock deformation, the relationship between stress and strain, and the interpretation of structures and their significance to regional and global tectonics. *Prerequisite: GEOL 201. Annually.*
- GEOL 214 Stratigraphy 2.2; 3 cr.**
 A course on the principles of interpretation of the sedimentary rocks and methods of correlation and an introduction to the stratigraphy of Lebanon in the context of the regional Geology of the Middle East. *Prerequisite: GEOL 222 or consent of instructor. Annually.*
- GEOL 215 Invertebrate Paleontology 2.2; 3 cr.**
 An introduction to the systematic study of invertebrate fossils, their classification and identification, using macro-specimens and thin sections. *Prerequisite: Consent of instructor. Annually.*
- GEOL 219 Geologic Field Methods 0.6; 3 cr.**
 An introduction to applied methods used in field geological mapping. This course also provides a description and interpretation of geological maps, and construction of cross-sections as well as a brief introduction to GIS. *Prerequisites: GEOL 201, GEOL 213, GEOL 222, or consent of instructor. Annually.*
- GEOL 221 Petrology 2.2; 3 cr.**
 A course on the origin, composition, occurrence, and classification of igneous and metamorphic rocks and their systematic identification in hand specimens and in thin section. *Prerequisite: GEOL 212 or consent of instructor. Annually.*
- GEOL 222 Sedimentology 2.2; 3 cr.**
 A study of the characteristics and classification of sedimentary rocks using petrographic and field study methods, with some focus on diagenetic processes, depositional environments, and elementary basin analysis. *Pre- or corequisites: GEOL 212 or consent of instructor. Annually.*

40 Credits¹ in Geology

Modes of Analysis	English and Arabic (9)	Humanities (12)	Social Sciences (12)	Natural Sciences (37+6)	Quantitative Thought (3)
Lecture Courses (9+12+3+40+3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Required Arabic course (3) Required English courses: 203(3), 204(3) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Required credits in the humanities: 12 credits including 6 credits from CVSP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Required elective economics courses: A 200-level approved GE economics course (3): ECON 211(3), or ECON 212(3); and a 200-level approved GE education course (3): EDUC 215 or 230 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Required Geology courses: GEOL 201²(3), 211⁴(3), 212^{2,4}(3), 213^{2,3,4}(3), 214^{2,3}(3), 219^{2,4}(3), 221^{2,3,4}(3), 222^{2,3,4}(3), 224^{2,3}(3), 226⁴(3), 227⁴(3), 229^{2,3}(6) Elective geology courses: GEOL 204, 205^{2,3}(3), 209, 225^{2,3}(3), 271^{2,3}(3), 272^{2,3}(3), 318(3) One natural science must be an approved general education course from outside the major (in PHYS or CHEM) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Required elective quantitative thought courses: CMPS 200(3) or MATH 201(3) or STAT 210(3)
Seminar (24+12)				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Required geology courses: GEOL 201B(3), 202^{2,3}(3), 213^{2,3,4}(3), 214^{2,3}(3), 221^{2,3,4}(3), 222^{2,3,4}(3), 224^{2,3}(3), 226(3), 227(3) Elective geology courses: GEOL 205^{2,3}(3), 225^{2,3}(3), 271^{2,3}(3), 272^{2,3}(3), 318³(3) 	
Laboratory (25+3)				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Required geology courses: GEOL 203(1), 211B(3), 212^{2,4}(3), 213^{2,3,4}(3), 219^{2,4}(3), 221^{2,3,4}(3), 222^{2,3,4}(3), 226⁴(3), 229^{2,3}(6) 	
Research Project (36+12)				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Required geology courses: 201²(3), 212^{2,4}(3), 213^{2,3,4}(3), 214^{2,3}(3), 219^{2,4}(3), 221^{2,3,4}(3), 222^{2,3,4}(3), 224^{2,3}(3), 229^{2,3}(6) Elective geology courses: GEOL 205^{2,3}(3), 225^{2,3}(3), 271^{2,3}(3), 272^{2,3}(3) 	

- 1) Plus 50 required and elective credits
- 2) Combined lecture, laboratory (field), and research project courses
- 3) Combined lecture and seminar courses
- 4) Combined lecture and lab courses

37 Credits in Petroleum Geoscience¹

Modes of Analysis	English and Arabic (9)	Humanities (12)	Social Sciences (12)	Natural Sciences (39+6+3)	Quantitative Thought (3)
Lecture Courses (9+12+9+3+37+6+3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Required Arabic course (3) Required English courses: 203(3), 204(3) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Required credits in the humanities: 12 credits including 6 credits from CVSP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Required business courses: ACCT 210(3), MNGT 215(3) Economics courses: ECON 211(3), or ECON 212(3) One approved GE social science course (3): EDUC 215(3), or EDUC 230(3) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Required geology courses: GEOL 201²(3), 211⁴(3), 212^{2,4}(3), 213^{2,3,4}(3), 214^{2,3}(3), 219^{2,4}(3), 221^{2,3,4}(3), 222^{2,3,4}(3), 225^{2,3}(3), 226⁴(3), 227⁴(3), 229^{2,3}(6) Chemistry and physics courses: CHEM 201(3) and one of PHYS 204(3), PHYS 205(3), or PHYS 210(3) Elective geology courses: GEOL 205^{2,3}(3), GEOL 209^{2,3}(3), 271^{2,3}(3), 272^{2,3}(3) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Required elective computer science courses: CMPS 200(3), or CMPS 209(3)
Seminar (30+12)				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Required geology courses: GEOL 201²(3), 213^{2,3,4}(3), 214^{2,3}(3), 219^{2,4}(3), 221^{2,3,4}(3), 222^{2,3,4}(3), 225^{2,3}(3), 229^{2,3}(6) Elective geology courses: GEOL 205^{2,3}(3), 210^{2,3}(3), 271^{2,3}(3), 272^{2,3}(3) 	
Laboratory (13,3)				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Required geology courses: GEOL 203(1), 211D(3), 212^{2,4}(3), 213^{2,3,4}(3), 222^{2,3,4}(3), 226⁴(3), 227⁴(3) 	
Research Project (27+12)				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Required geology courses: GEOL 201⁴(3), 213^{2,3,4}(3), 214^{2,3}(3), 219^{2,4}(3), 221^{2,3,4}(3), 222^{2,3,4}(3), 225^{2,3}(3), 229^{2,3}(6) Elective geology courses: GEOL 205^{2,3}(3), GEOL 209^{2,3}(3), 271^{2,3}(3), 272^{2,3}(3), 318^{3,4}(3) 	

1) Plus 50 required and elective credits

2) Combined lecture, laboratory (field), and research project courses

3) Combined lecture and seminar courses

4) Combined lecture and lab courses