COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This course is designed to be lecture in the field about the spectacular geology of Wyoming. A great variety of Wyoming’s minerals, rocks, fossils, and scenic geology will be explored during five days of fieldtrips. This course is designed to give students and the general public a hands-on in the field approach to learning about complex and scenic geologic features. The students will be able to ask questions, take notes, photograph, collect samples, and directly observe field relationships concerning a multitude of geologic processes and features.

PREREQUISITES:
None, but some previous or simultaneous geology instruction is preferred.

OBJECTIVES:
1) Learn to recognize the principle geological features that form the topography, vegetative cover, mineral resources, and scenery of Wyoming
2) Use first hand observation skills and hands-on learning techniques to identify common minerals, rocks, fossils, stratigraphy, geomorphology, and geologic structures
3) Develop a personal sense of scientific field inquiry and exploration
4) Learn to properly find, stabilize, collect, label, record, and locate fossil specimens in the field

OUTCOMES: CC gen. ed.
1. Demonstrate effective oral communication
2. Use the scientific method
5. Appreciate aesthetic and creative activities
METHODOLOGY:
This course will consist of five days of traveling lectures, demonstrations, discussions and field methods designed to teach students about Wyoming’s geology and paleontology, easily observed while traveling along the scenic highways of the state. A small library of pertinent books, maps, and reports will be available in the vehicle and in evenings to help support the field observations and lectures. Observations and sampling of invertebrate, vertebrate, and trace fossils from many different periods of geologic time and a variety of rock formations will occur throughout the semester. Students are expected to make every effort to participate in field trips, carefully read all assigned material and, above all, ask questions when unsure.

Evaluation Criteria:
Students will be evaluated by their participation in the day to day discussions about observed geologic processes and features during the fieldtrip. An accurate neat field notebook should be kept by each student and will be turned in at midterm and the end of term for grading. An exit exam may also be given near the end of the class, giving each participant an opportunity to reveal how much they learned about the geology and paleontology of key features and the areas visited.

Field Trips:
There will be weekend field trips whenever weather permits throughout the semester. Students are expected to attend at least 3 field trips. Each student should keep an accurate record of all trips, collection sites, and specimens collected in their field notebook. You must be prepared for possible changing cold, hot, or wet inclement weather conditions on every field excursion. Good boots, coats, gloves and hats will be essential. Backpacks, water bottles, field notebooks and snacks are recommended. Hammers, hand lens, sample bags, glue, etc may be provided, if available, each field trip

Required Text, Readings, and Materials:
A Field Notebook (No size preference – durable) is required. Other readings as provided by instructor

Class Policies: Last Date to Change to Audit Status or to Withdraw with a W Grade:
No drop slips will be signed after the official deadline! April 14th.

Student Rights and Responsibilities: Please refer to the Casper College Student Conduct and Judicial Code for information concerning your rights and responsibilities as a Casper College Student.

Chain of Command: If you have any problems with this class, you should first contact the instructor in order to solve the problem. If you are not satisfied with the solution offered by the instructor, you should then take your problem through the appropriate chain of command starting with the department head, then the division chair, and lastly the vice president for academic affairs.

Academic Dishonesty - Cheating & Plagiarism: Casper College demands intellectual honesty. Proven plagiarism or any form of dishonesty associated with the academic process can result in the offender failing the course and/or expulsion from school. See the Casper College Student Code of Conduct.

ADA Accommodations Policy: It is the policy of Casper College to provide appropriate accommodations to any student with a documented disability. If you have a known accommodation in this course, please make an appointment to see me at your earliest convenience. To request academic accommodations students must first consult with the College’s disability Services councilor located in the Gateway Building, Room 344, (307) 268-2557, bheuer@caspercollege.edu