GEOL 121 examines the basic composition of the Earth and the dynamic forces which have altered the Earth's surface through time, including sedimentation, erosion, volcanism, earthquakes, plate tectonics, and mountain-building. Students will gain an appreciation for the immense processes affecting their environment. The course promotes a general understanding of scientific methods and theory building, as well as the limits of scientific inquiry. It provides the content within an historical perspective and the role geology played in the development of modern civilization. Students apply both inductive and deductive reasoning as they explore the fallacies and misconceptions surrounding the interpretation of Earth’s geological past.

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:
- Explain the geological forces creating the landscape;
- Interpret how geological strata are created and later modified by natural forces;
- Predict the ongoing geological processes affecting the Earth.

Hence we feel that this course meets each of the criteria in GE Category B1.