# Geology 406LRS: Science Capstone Experience
## A Class for Future Teachers

### Instructor Information
- **Instructor:** Sina Sadeghi  
- **Office:** LO 1224  
- **Office Hours:** Tue. 7:45-8:45pm and by appointment

### Location:
- LO 1227  
- Class Day/Time: Tue./5:00-7:45pm  
- Course Number: 17107

### Course Objectives

#### A Class for Future Teachers
Teaching is one of the most gratifying professions you can imagine, but it also involves challenging work. Teachers often spend more time with their students than many parents. Over the course of your career, you can influence thousands of lives. As a teacher, you must be a positive role model; you can't be late and you must maintain your composure when you are upset or frustrated. If you wish to be a teacher, now is the time to start practicing pedagogical practices and skills. This class has high expectations for learning and integrity and a low tolerance for excuses.

#### Teaching Takes Practice
As you transition from being a student to being a career teacher, you will need to practice facing new situations. Problem solving is one of the key components of teaching. In this class, we'll practice teaching science in a supportive environment called microteaching. Each week, you will prepare to teach a micro-lesson to your team of 5-6 peers. The lesson plans are already written and come from the FOSS kits that LAUSD uses to teach elementary science. You will also justify your lesson using the California Next Generation Science Standards. By teaching your peers, you will master both science content and gain valuable practice. Your peers will assess your preparation, performance, and connection to the standards in order to give you valuable feedback that can help improve your science teaching practices.

### Rules

#### General:
It is the responsibility of each student in this course to know and follow all written guidance given by the instructor. Unforeseen circumstances during the semester might require changes to the syllabus. In this event, a revised syllabus will be posted to Moodle.

#### Electronics:
Class time is a few short hours a week to devote to focused learning. Save phone calls, text messages, web surfing, and other activities for designated breaks or after class. Keep your cell phone out of your own sight so you won't be tempted. There will be penalties for violating this policy.

#### Special Accommodations:
I am committed to accommodating those with special physical or learning needs. Please notify me as soon as possible.

### Grading
You will be graded based on the following three areas:

1. Mastery of science content, as measured by summative quizzes conducted periodically at the end of topics
2. Growth as a science teacher, as measured by peer assessment of your microteaching.
3. Reflection on your own teaching and the teaching of others, as measured by completion of homework assignments, peer assessment surveys, and self assessment reflections.
Academic Dishonesty
I expect high standards of academic integrity from future teachers so there is a zero-tolerance rule for academic dishonesty in this class. I will refer all cases of academic dishonesty (including copying, allowing others to copy your work, plagiarism, failing to cite your source, copying/pasting text from the internet even with modifications, misrepresentation of others' work as your own, violations of the collaboration policy below, etc.) to the VP of the Student Affairs Office for arbitration and possible disciplinary action. The first offense will result in, at minimum, the reduction of your final grade by one letter grade (A becomes B), the second offense will result in an F for the class. It is not worth the risk to cheat or let someone copy your work in this class. If you do not return class/teaching materials in a clean and orderly condition, it will affect your grade.

Absences:
Teachers typically get 10 days of sick leave that they can miss without penalty. In this class, you can miss one day, no questions asked and with no penalty. To request a leave day, you must fill out the form on Moodle either before your absence or within 7 days after. After using your leave day, you will receive no credit for days you miss. Homework due that day should be turned in the following class period with the words "LEAVE DAY" written on top. I do consider extenuating circumstances. You may not use a leave day on a day for which you are scheduled to microteach. You will receive zero for those days. Instead, you'll need to arrange a substitute by contacting your teammates and seeing if someone else can volunteer to switch with you.

Late Assignments
NO late assignments will be accepted except for those that result from a medical/legal emergency affecting you or a close family member. Such an emergency will have to be documented in writing by an appropriate medical/legal authority and will be accepted at no penalty. Fill out the Leave Day request on Moodle and provide documentation within 7 days of the absence so that we can make arrangements to make-up missed assignments. Grades of incomplete cannot be given in laboratory classes.
Class period schedule
Each student teaches three times during the semester—once during each topic block. Each block lasts 4 weeks. Typical Schedules for each block are shown below

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weeks 3, 7, 11</th>
<th>Weeks 4, 5, 8, 9, &amp; 12, 14</th>
<th>Weeks 6, 10, 15</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Intro material</td>
<td>Microteachers set up</td>
<td>Microteachers set up</td>
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<tr>
<td>Break/Microteachers set up</td>
<td>Microteaching</td>
<td>5:05-5:50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Microteaching</td>
<td>Break / Peer Assessment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Break / Peer Assessment</td>
<td>Microteaching II</td>
<td>6:10-6:55</td>
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<tr>
<td>Post Discussion</td>
<td>Break / Peer Assessment</td>
<td>Review</td>
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<tr>
<td>Post Discussion</td>
<td>Break / Peer Assessment</td>
<td>Review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post Discussion</td>
<td>7:15-7:45</td>
<td>Post-Quiz</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Microteaching:
When you are the microteacher, you must:
- Pick up supplies the week before
- Arrive on time to set up your classroom.
- Be prepared to teach a full 45 minute lesson—bring extras and be ready to skip material if you need to adjust so that you fill exactly 45 minutes.
- Fill out the Peer Assessment form immediately after you teach, clicking “I was the microteacher”.
- Return borrowed materials in clean and dry condition.
- Fill out the post-teaching reflection (a SECOND Moodle survey) within a week after you receive your grade.

Obligations when you are the microteacher: