GEOL 3401 is a two-week field course during which students visit and study important and spectacular volcanic mountains throughout the Oregon and Washington Cascade Range. Volcanoes visited include Mt. Rainier, Mt. St. Helens, Mt. Hood, Newberry Crater, and Crater Lake. The objective of the course is to develop a fundamental understanding of the origin, evolution, and eruption styles of volcanoes through direct field-observations. The course is taught at the freshman-sophomore level. The course prerequisite is one introductory course in geology, or permission of the instructor. The course is appropriate for students of all majors.

Throughout the course, students learn and apply basic geology field techniques to the study of volcanoes and volcanic rocks. Weather and volcanic activity conditions permitting, students take hikes at each volcano to observe important volcanic landforms and processes. Included in the curriculum is a climb up the south rim of Mt. St. Helens to observe and study the effects of the volcano’s recent eruptions. Due to the relatively remote localities of the study areas, most nights are spent at campgrounds. Although late July is typically the ‘dry season’ in the Cascade Range, students almost certainly will encounter some rainy weather. Temperatures may vary from warm 80° days to cool 40° nights. While hiking at higher altitudes, students may even encounter snow. Students should bring clothing suitable for a variety of weather conditions.

Tuition + Fees:
1) Undergraduate In-State Tuition (4 credit hours) and Fees - $1128
2) Course Fees - $700 (Includes: field transportation, hotels, camping, national park admission fees, Mt. St. Helens climbing fee.)

Other Costs:
1) Airfare: ~$500 - Airfare to and from Portland, Oregon is not included in the Course Fees. All students must purchase their own air tickets separately.
2) Food and Incidental Expenses : ~$250 – Students are responsible for purchasing their own food during the trip.

Total Estimated Cost: $2578

For additional information, contact Dr. Warner Cribb (warner.cribb@mtsu.edu, 898-2379)