

Introduction to Physical Geology

**Geological Sciences
Univ. of Texas at El Paso
UGLC 346**

**Spring 2020 • GEOL 1313
Syllabus
Tues./Thurs. 1:30-2:50 PM**

CRN: 15721

**Instructor: Aaron A. Velasco
Office: 227B Geological Sciences
Phone: 915-747-5101
TA: TBD**

**Office Hrs.: Tu/Th 10:30-11 AM; 3-3:30
PM
E-mail: aavelasco@utep.edu**

Course Goals and Objectives:

This course will expose students to the wonderful world of the geological sciences and also will demonstrate the impact of geology on your everyday life. Also, you will also be exposed to how geological processes created the landscape that is El Paso. A student should leave this course with a basic understanding of the concepts and vocabulary of the geosciences. Scientists need a common language through which to communicate ideas; thus, vocabulary is a very important component of this course. You will also be exposed to how scientists approach a scientific problem: observe, question, and analyze. The lectures and tests will all work toward these goals.

We live in one of the most geologically interesting places on earth, and I will try and include examples from El Paso about most things we do. Finally, geology is a fun subject. This should be a class where you learn a lot and also have a good time.

If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148, or by email to cass@utep.edu, or visit their office located in UTEP Union East, Room 106. For additional information, please visit the CASS website at www.sa.utep.edu/cass.

Textbooks and Online Material:

Exploring **Geology** Reynolds, Johnson, Morin, Carter (ISBN: 9781260702019)

REYNOLDS access card EXPLORING
GEOL (ISBN: 9781260702057)
You will need access to **LearnSmart**

The above textbook for the course comes in both paper form and online. Please bring books to class.

Grading:

Grades will be calculated on the basis of participation (**iClicker Cloud**, see below), homework, 3 mid-term exams, and a final exam. Participation will account for 5% of the grade, homework at 10%, mid-term exams at 20% each, and a final exam at 25%. The grades are not curved. They are based on your ability to learn the vocabulary and concepts of physical geology.

If you score less than 90% on midterm exams, you have the opportunity to improve your test scores by turning in your old exams with corrections to missed questions (due one week after the test). You can earn ½ credit for all questions missed that will be counted toward your exam grade.

Attendance:

For many of you, this may be your first exposure to science. Your success in this class depends on your willingness to work and your attendance to lecture. Thus, in order to help you be successful, I am instituting an attendance policy, which will be tracked using **iClicker**. Your attendance will be checked throughout the semester. On the 4th unexcused absence, I reserve the right to drop you from the course.

Homework:

Homework will be assigned (weekly) using Blackboard that will be due one week from when it is assigned. I will be using **Connect LearnSmart** for your homework, which is an intelligent learning system based on cognitive mapping that diagnoses students' knowledge of a particular subject then creates an individualized learning path geared towards student success in your course. It also offers individualized assessment by delivering appropriate learning material in the form of questions at the right time helping students attain mastery of the content.

Classroom Exercises:

We will have short cooperative exercises in class. These have two purposes. (1) To help teach you how to observe, to think scientifically and to ask questions. (2) To test your understanding and help you learn. Many of the exercises will use the book, so please bring your books to class.

Conduct:

Please do not talk in class, unless it is during an in-class exercise. If you have a question, please ask. I encourage questions! Talking distracts the instructor and other students. Silence your cell phones before lecture. Texting or calls will not be allowed. If you wish to use a computer for notes, please sit in the first three rows of class.

Continued enrollment in this course constitutes acceptance of these terms.

Extra Credit

Field trips and other events

There will be 0-2 field trips, attending them will count for extra credit on exams and help your class participation grade. The field trips will be announced during the semester. I will also assign extra credit to attend lectures and presentations from the Department of Geological Sciences. Other extra credit assignments may be assigned randomly during the semester.

Peers Assisting Student Success (PASS)

PASS is a free tutoring program that consists of student led review sessions from someone who has previously taken the course and is working closely with the professor to help provide individualized academic support to students. **The PASS leader is not a TA (teaching assistant), but a peer leader.** They cannot extend deadlines, inform you of your grades or give you extra credit.

At the beginning of the semester you will receive an email from Miner Learning Center (MLC) asking for your availability during the semester to attend PASS sessions. *Answer by the second class* in order to best provide you with sessions that will fit your schedule. Normally, there will be three scheduled sessions per week, so you can attend as many sessions as you would like.

You are highly encouraged to attend as many sessions as possible, especially before exams. These sessions will add 5 extra credit points to your exam scores (only 5 points per exam).

iClicker Cloud:

We will be using the iClicker Cloud Classroom Response System (CRS) technology in class, which allows instructors to ask questions, gather student responses, display those responses in real-time. **For exams, will be using this tool instead of scantrons. Therefore, you must register.** This system is free to use, and students setting up their iClicker Reef accounts for the 1st time will see a message about a “14 day free trial”. As long as you have selected UTEP as their institution, you will not have to renew their subscription after the 14 day trial is over. See: <http://admin.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=74573>

Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Chapter	LearnSmart HW Assigned/Due
1	Jan. 21, 23	Intro. to Geology	Ch. 1, 2	Jan. 21/ Jan. 28
2	Jan. 28, 30	Plate Tectonics	Ch. 3	Jan. 28/ Feb. 4
3	Feb. 4, 6	Earth Materials	Ch. 4	Feb. 4/ Feb. 11
4	Feb. 11 Feb. 13	Igneous Environments Midterm Exam I	Ch. 5	Feb. 6/ Feb. 13
5	Feb. 18, 20	Volcanoes Sedimentary Rocks	Ch. 6 Ch. 7	Feb. 13/ Feb. 20 Feb. 13/ Feb. 20
6	Feb. 25, 27	Sedimentary Rocks Deformation and Metamorphism	Ch. 7 Ch. 8	Feb. 13/ Feb. 20 Feb. 20/ Feb. 27
7	Mar. 3 Mar. 5 Mar. 5-6	Deformation and Metamorphism Midterm Exam II Geology Colloquium – Extra Credit	Ch. 8	Feb. 20/ Feb. 27
8	Mar. 10, 12	Geologic Time Continental Margins	Ch. 9 Ch. 10	Mar. 3/ Mar. 10 Mar. 5/ Mar. 12
9	Mar. 16-20	Spring Break		
10	Mar. 24, 26	Mountains, Basins, Continents	Ch. 11	Mar. 10/ Mar. 24
11	Mar. 31, Apr. 2	Earthquakes	Ch. 12	Mar. 24/ Mar. 31
12	Apr. 7 Apr. 9	Climate and Geology Midterm Exam III	Ch. 13	Mar. 31/ Apr. 7
13	Apr. 14, 16	Climate and Geology Weathering	Ch. 13 Ch. 15	Mar. 31/ Apr. 7 Apr. 9/ Apr. 16
14	Apr. 21, 23	Streams and Flooding	Ch. 16	Apr. 14/ Apr. 21
15	Apr. 28, 30	Water Resources	Ch. 17	Apr. 21/ Apr. 28
16	May 5, 7	Energy and Resources	Ch. 18	Apr. 28/ May 5
17	May 14	Final Exam; Thur. 1:00 – 3:45 pm		