

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO  
Department of Earth, Environmental and Resource Sciences

**GEOL 1211/1111 Principles of Earth Science  
Spring 2026**

**Instructor:** Dr. Jay Chapman, Geology Building room 319, jbchapmanv@utep.edu  
**Office hours:** Email me to set up a time to meet or stop by my office

**Lecture:** Mon. & Wed. 1:30–2:20 pm; Quinn Hall, room 212

**Lab:** Geology Building, room 216

**LAB MANAGER:** Sana Jagmag, shjagmag@miners.utep.edu

Day	Start	End	TA	email	CRN
T	830	1020	Daniel Castano	dacastanomadri@miners.utep.edu	22525
T	1030	1150	Daniel Castano	dacastanomadri@miners.utep.edu	22630
T	1230	1420	Melissa Ortega	mnortega@utep.edu	23706
T	1430	1620	Ryan Helgerson	rthelgerson@miners.utep.edu	23707
W	830	1020	Rachelle Castillo	rcastillo@miners.utep.edu	23779
W	1030	1220	Sarafina Middaugh	samiddaugh@miners.utep.edu	24166
R	830	1020	Rachelle Castillo	rcastillo@miners.utep.edu	24167
R	1030	1150	Melissa Ortega	mnortega@utep.edu	24955
R	1230	1420	Sarafina Middaugh	samiddaugh@miners.utep.edu	24958
R	1430	1620	Ryan Helgerson	rthelgerson@miners.utep.edu	25606

**Course Description**

Study of the earth as a planet. A survey of physical process operating in the atmosphere, lithosphere, and biosphere. Includes introduction to metrology, physical geology, soil, and vegetation. This course is divided into four sections. The first section focuses on plate tectonics and earthquakes. In the second section, students will learn about minerals, igneous rocks, and volcanic hazards. Metamorphic rocks and deformation are significant parts of section three together with an introduction to the atmosphere. The course concluded by focusing on climate change, global warming, and desert regions.

**Learning Outcomes and Course Objectives**

- Understand plate tectonics – how it works, what it explains, what it does not explain
- Understand the interrelationships between Earth processes and products/materials
- Recognize various tectonic settings on Earth
- Demonstrate an understanding of plate tectonics and the concept of a dynamic planet
- Understand what drives geologic processes
- Identify minerals by their physical properties, identify rocks by physical properties, composition, texture, and formation and relate them to their environment of formation
- Appreciate the variety of temporal and spatial scales of cycles

- Apply physics, chemistry, biology and mathematics to solve geologic problems
- Draw connections between geology, climate, climate change, and human activities events.

**Text:** (FREE) <https://opengeology.org/textbook/>

**Grading:**

Lecture:        Weekly Quizzes:        100% (median grade for all quizzes)  
 Lab:             Weekly Labs:                    100% (average grade of all labs)

**Quizzes:** Quizzes will be administered through Blackboard and will be completed online. There will be one quiz per week. The purpose of these quizzes is to review material and prepare for exams. These quizzes will open after lecture each week and will close the following week when lecture starts. No make-up quizzes or re-opening of quizzes are provided under any circumstances. Because the median quiz grade is used to calculate your grades, missed quizzes can have limited impact on the overall quiz grade. All of the quizzes are open-notebook, open-book, and you are welcome to use other resources (e.g., the internet) to help with the quizzes. However, you will only have one attempt to complete the quiz and all quizzes should be taken independently.

**Attendance:** Attendance is key to succeed in this class

**Grading Scale:** Above 90 = A, 80-89 = B, 70-79 = C, 60-69 = D, Below 60 = F

**Attendance:** Key to success in this class is attendance. part of the grade

**Academic Dishonesty and Disruptive Behavior**

Students are encouraged to collaborate in class and on class assignments. You are also strongly encouraged to form study groups and make this class a team effort. However, academic dishonesty (plagiarism, copying, etc.) will not be tolerated. Students will adhere to UTEP’s academic integrity policy: <http://academics.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=23785>. Any academic or non-academic misconduct will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution in accordance with the UTEP student code of conduct.

**Students with Disabilities**

If you think you have a disability or if you are experiencing some learning difficulties, please contact the Center for Accommodation and Support Services (CASS) at 915-747-5148, or see them in person in Union East Room 106. They will provide any necessary accommodations. You should also meet with your instructor to facilitate your needs. Please provide proper documentation of your disability and needs. After meeting with CASS, contact the instructor privately to facilitate your needs and arrangements.