

Physical Geology GEOL 1313 Section ?????

Instructor: Richard Langford **Office Hours:** By zoom, or on the phone 915-747-5968 hours **tba**
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Teaching Assistant: ?????

Required Text: 1) *Exploring Geology*, 4th or 5th Edition, by Steve Reynolds, Julia Johnson, Paul Morin, Charles Carter. McGraw-Hill.

Packback, Purchased through <https://www.packback.co/>

What I expect you to get out of this class.

- 1) Learning to observe and ask questions. This class will teach you to look at the world around you and ask questions about why things look like they do.
- 2) Understanding the forces and history that shape our landscape.
- 3) Concepts and vocabulary. A big part of any introductory science is vocabulary. We need to have the same meanings for the words we use so that we can communicate. There are also several important concepts that are of concern to all of us as citizens and scientists.
- 4) Thinking like a scientist. You should begin to think like a scientist. Scientists observe, question, and analyze. Thinking like a scientist will help your work through the craziness of our modern world. The lectures and tests will all work toward these two goals.
- 5) Learning about El Paso. El Paso is an incredible place to learn about Geology. I will include examples wherever possible (which is almost every chapter).
- 6) Enjoyment. This should be a class where you learn a lot and also have a good time. Participation is a key to enjoyment.

Process:

Before each class:

- * Read the assigned materials
- * Identify concepts that are central to understanding the topics to be discussed
- * Prepare a list of questions from the reading for which you need further clarification

During each class:

- * Try to solve the weekly problem and turn it in.
- * Take careful notes. Be sure you can make concept maps and drawings as part of your notes.
- * Be an active participant!!
- * Classroom cooperative exercises. We will have short cooperative exercises in class. Some of these will be graded and will replace pop quizzes.
- * Socratic method. I often ask questions in lecture. I am trying to teach you how to approach science. I am trying to get you to ask questions. I am not looking for the “right” answer.

Grading :

Weekly questions and problems 180 points 12 at 15 pts each.

Packback Discussion180 points 6 for question, 6 for first answer 6 for 2nd answer. 12 at 15 pts each.

Exams (3)..... 50 points each for 150

Final exam (1)..... 40 points

Total..... 550 points

Weekly Questions:

Each week there will be a class problem to be handed in relating to the material we cover. The lowest 3 scores will be dropped. Quizzes are designed to encourage attendance and preparation for class. If you aren't here you will get a zero. Some questions will be given as Homework assignments.

Extra credit Field Trips. You will have the option to take many field trips to interesting geological features in the El Paso area during the semester. Just meet us on a weekend or evening for an hour or two and learn some amazing things about the city you live in. 10 pts each

Participation. Note to Megan, this might be rolled into the Packback discussions

I will be posting video lectures that cover the chapters in the text. Because this is an interactive text what works to get you to ask your own questions, I will typically have 10-15 minute lectures that cover the main points of the text. You should read and study the book and the course questions before we have the class on that chapter.

You must participate in the online discussion and complete the

Class Organization

Date Topic Reading

DATE	TOPIC	READING
Block 1 Week 1 begins Jan 19	The Nature of Geology	Chapter 1 from Reynolds
Week 2 begins Jan 25	Investigating Geologic Questions	Chapter 2
Week 3 Begins Feb 1	Plate Tectonics	Chapter 3
Week 4 Block 2 Earth Materials	Earth Materials	Chapter 4
Week 5	Igneous Environments - EXAM 1	Chapter 5
Week 6	Volcanoes	Chapter 6
Week 7	Sedimentary Environments	Chapter 7
Week 8	Deformation and Metamorphism	Chapter 8
Spring Break March 15 - 19		
Week 9 March 22	Earth History	EXAM 2 Chapter 9
Global processes		
Week 10	Seafloor, mountains, and basins	Chapter 10 and 11
Week 11	Earthquakes and Earth's Interior	12
Week 12	Climate and Weather	13
Week 13	Streams and Flooding	15
Week 14	Water Resources	
Week 14	Energy and climate change EXAM 3	
FINAL EXAM Week of May 10		

UTEP and Course Policies

Technology Requirements

Course content is delivered via the Internet through the Blackboard learning management system. Ensure your UTEP e-mail account is working and that you have access to the Web and a stable web browser. Google Chrome and Mozilla Firefox are the best browsers for Blackboard; other browsers may cause complications. If you have technical problems, 1) update your browser, 2) make sure it is blackboard compatible (most are), 3) clear your cache, finally 4) try switching to another browser.

You will need to have access to a computer/laptop, and a cellular phone. You will need to download or update the following software: a **word processing software** like Microsoft Office, Adobe Acrobat Reader, a Media Player, QuickTime, Excel, and Powerpoint, and Google Earth. Check that your computer hardware and software are up-to-date and able to access all parts of the course. We will also use some specialized software for this course that is free and open source. I

If you do not have a word-processing software, you can download Word and other Microsoft Office programs (including Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook and more) for free via UTEP's Microsoft Office Portal. Click the following link for more information about [Microsoft Office 365](#) and follow the instructions.

IMPORTANT: If you encounter technical difficulties beyond your scope of troubleshooting with standard software, please contact the UTEP [Help Desk](#) as they are trained in assisting with technological needs of students. You are also welcome to call me. Don't waste a lot of time trying to get your computer to work. (I know I do this sometimes)

Online Etiquette

As we know, sometimes communication online can be challenging. It's possible to miscommunicate what we mean or to misunderstand what our classmates mean given the lack of body language and immediate feedback. Therefore, please keep these netiquette (network etiquette) guidelines in mind. Failure to observe them may result in disciplinary action.

- Always consider your classmates. This is a college-level course; therefore, all communication should reflect polite consideration of other's ideas.
- Respect and courtesy must be provided to classmates and to the instructor at all times. No harassment or inappropriate postings will be tolerated.
- When reacting to someone else's message, address the ideas, not the person. Post only what anyone would comfortably state in a face-to-face situation.
- Blackboard is not a public internet venue; all postings to it should be considered private and confidential. Whatever is posted on in these online spaces is intended for classmates and professor only. Please do not copy documents and paste them to a publicly accessible website, blog, or other space.

Make-up Policy

If you are going to be absent for any classwork, let me know well in advance and we will do everything we can to make an accommodation. If you miss an exam or field trip without notice no makeup will be allowed. Note, if you are feeling ill, don't come to class or campus. Do call me before class and we can discuss how to take your exam or complete your assignment.

Alternate Means of Submitting Assignments in Case there are Technical Issues

I strongly suggest that you submit your work with time to spare in the event that you have a problem with the internet or the UTEP blackboard or your computer. **SAVE YOUR WORK.** Onedrive is a good system for making sure your work doesn't disappear, and if you successfully upload to Blackboard it is good at not losing anything. This way, you will have evidence that you completed the work and will not lose credit. If you are experiencing difficulties submitting your work through the course website, please contact the UTEP Help Desk. You can call or email me your work as a last resort.

Academic Integrity and Disruptive Behavior

Students are encouraged to collaborate in class and on class assignments. I am happy to have you help each other learn. But anything you turn in must be your own work unless it is specifically labeled a group project. 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:

Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another as ones' own. Collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. All suspected

violations of academic integrity at The University of Texas at El Paso must be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR) for possible disciplinary action. To learn more, please visit HOOP: Student Conduct and Discipline.
<http://academics.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=23785>

Civility

This class requires group interactions during our online meetings, and you are expected to participate in class when called on. This does not give you permission to talk in class, use your cell phone, etc. Use common sense for group interactions!

Students with Disabilities Accommodations

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 in order to facilitate your needs. Please provide proper documentation of your disability and needs.

COVID-19 Accommodations

Students are not permitted on campus when they have a positive COVID-19 test, exposure or symptoms. If you are not permitted on campus, you should contact me as soon as possible so we can arrange necessary and appropriate accommodations.

Military Service: If you are in the military and service or training may take you out of town, please advise the instructor and we'll work out an accommodation if at all possible, but you'll need to let the instructor know well in advance.

Course Drop Policy – According to UTEP Curriculum and Classroom Policies, “When, in the judgment of the instructor, a student has been absent to such a degree as to impair his or her status relative to credit for the course, the instructor may drop the student from the class with a grade of “W” before the course drop deadline and with a grade of “F” after the course drop deadline.” **If you are not active in the first five weeks of the class and in my judgement you are unable to complete the course with a passing grade, I will drop you from the course. However, otherwise I will not drop you from the course.** However, if you feel that you are unable to complete the course successfully, please let me know and then contact the Registrar's Office to initiate the drop process. If you do not, you are at risk of receiving an “F” for the course. I will do my best to make sure that you have a good understanding of your progress and grade in the class..

Copyright Statement for Course Materials

All materials used in this course are protected by copyright law. The course materials are only for the use of students currently enrolled in this course and only for the purpose of this course. They may not be further disseminated.

Covid-19 Precautions

You must STAY AT HOME and REPORT if you (1) have been diagnosed with COVID-19, (2) are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, or (3) have had recent contact with a person who has received a positive coronavirus test. Reports should be made at screening.utep.edu. If you know of anyone who should report any of these three criteria, you should encourage them to report. If the individual cannot report, you can report on their behalf by sending an email to COVIDaction@utep.edu. For each day that you attend campus—for any reason—you must complete the questions on the UTEP screening website (screening.utep.edu) prior to arriving on campus. The website will verify if you are permitted to come to campus. Under no circumstances should anyone come to class when feeling ill or exhibiting any of the known COVID-19 symptoms. If you are feeling unwell, please let

me know as soon as possible, and alternative instruction will be provided. Students are advised to minimize the number of encounters with others to avoid infection.

Wear face coverings when in common areas of campus or when others are present. You must wear a face covering over your nose and mouth at all times in this class. If you choose not to wear a face covering, you may not enter the classroom. If you remove your face covering, you will be asked to put it on or leave the classroom. Students who refuse to wear a face covering and follow preventive COVID-19 guidelines will be dismissed from the class and will be subject to disciplinary action according to Section 1.2.3 *Health and Safety* and Section 1.2.2.5 *Disruptions* in the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures.

(classes with on-campus meetings) Please note that if COVID-19 conditions deteriorate in the City of El Paso, all course and lab activities may be transitioned to remote delivery.

Resources for Students

If you have with any facet of this class, you can always come to me, or you can try some of the many resources that UTEP provides .

Technology Resources

- [Help Desk](#): Students experiencing technological challenges (email, Blackboard, software, etc.) can submit a ticket to the UTEP Helpdesk for assistance. Contact the Helpdesk via phone, email, chat, website, or in person if on campus.

Academic Resources

- [UTEP Library](#): Access a wide range of resources including online, full-text access to thousands of journals and eBooks plus reference service and librarian assistance for enrolled students.
- [University Writing Center \(UWC\)](#): Submit papers here for assistance with writing style and formatting, ask a tutor for help and explore other writing resources.
- [Math Tutoring Center \(MaRCS\)](#): Ask a tutor for help and explore other available math resources.
- [History Tutoring Center \(HTC\)](#): Receive assistance with writing history papers, get help from a tutor and explore other history resources.
- [RefWorks](#): A bibliographic citation tool; check out the RefWorks tutorial and Fact Sheet and Quick-Start Guide.
- Zotero is a free equivalent you can download.