Physical Geology GEOL 1313 Section 25776

Instructor: Richard Langford  
Office Hours: By zoom, or on the phone 915-747-5968 10-12 Tuesday Wednesday Thursday langford@utep.edu

Teaching Assistants: TBA  
Office Hrs TBA


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:

1. Each Week’s materials will be released Thursday
2. The Smartbook Assignments on McGraw Hill Connect will be Due before class the next Tuesday. This is guided studying, with some review questions.
   • Use Smartbook and read the material for the week. Usually about a chapter per week.
   • 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.
   • Take careful notes. Be sure you can make concept maps and drawings as part of your notes.
3. Watch the video lectures, These will be available most weeks. The powerpoints I use are also available for you, these and the video lectures often contain material about El Paso that isn’t in the book.
5. 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. There will often be short blackboard quizzes for you to take right after you watch a video lecture.

Grading:
Each of your smartbook and Connect Assignment grades count 100 points. I will drop the lowest 6, so if you get sick or have a family emergency or two it will not effect your grade at all. The Smartbook and connect assignments, plus in-class activities will count 35% of your grade.

There will be 4 exams, if you have to miss one, I will replace the missing grade with the final exam grade. Each exam will count 16.26% of your grade. For a total of 65%. If you are unable to take an exam or do poorly on a couple, the optional final exam will take their place.

The final exam is optional. You can take it if you want to improve your grade, or if you have missed an exam. It will replace any exam on which you did more poorly than on that part of the final.

Extra credit Field Trips. If covid-19 allows, I would love to show you some El Paso Geology, You may have the option late in the semester. to take field trips to interesting geological features in the El Paso area I’ll announce these in the schedule and lecture if and when we can safely do this.

Class Organization

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1 Jan 18</td>
<td>The Nature of Geology</td>
<td>Chapter 1 from Reynolds</td>
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<td>Investigating Geologic Questions</td>
<td>Chapter 2</td>
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<td>Week 2 Jan 23 - 25</td>
<td>Plate Tectonics</td>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
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<td>Week 3 Begins Jan 30- Feb 1</td>
<td>Earth Materials</td>
<td>Chapter 4</td>
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<td>Week 4 Feb 6-8</td>
<td>Igneous Environments</td>
<td>Exam 1</td>
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<td>Block 2 Earth Materials</td>
<td>Volcanoes</td>
<td>Chapter 5</td>
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<td>Week 5 Feb 13-15</td>
<td>Orogenic</td>
<td>Chapter 6</td>
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<td>Week 6 Feb 20-22</td>
<td>Sedimentary Environments</td>
<td>Chapter 7</td>
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<td>Week 7 Feb 27-Mar 1</td>
<td>Deformation and Metamorphism</td>
<td>Chapter 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 8 Mar 6-8</td>
<td>Earth History Exam 2</td>
<td>Chapter 8</td>
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<td>Block 3 Global processes</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
<td>Chapter 9, Parts of Chapter 10 and 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 13-17</td>
<td>Earth History Continued Seafloor, mountains, and basins</td>
<td>Chapter 9, Parts of Chapter 10 and 11</td>
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<td>Week 9 Mar 20-22</td>
<td>Earthquakes and Earth’s Interior</td>
<td>Chapter 12</td>
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<td>Week 10 Mar 27 - 29</td>
<td>Climate and Weather</td>
<td>Chapter 13</td>
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<td>Week 11 April 3 – 5</td>
<td>Exam 3</td>
<td>Chapter 13</td>
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<td>Week 12 Apr 10 - 12</td>
<td>Weathering and Soil, Streams and Flooding</td>
<td>Chapter 15, and 16</td>
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<td>Block 4 Climate and Weather</td>
<td>El Paso Landscapes</td>
<td>Chapter 17</td>
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<td>Week 13 Apr 17 - 19</td>
<td>Water Resources</td>
<td>Chapter 17</td>
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<td>Week 14 Apr 24 – 26</td>
<td>Energy Mineral Resources and climate change</td>
<td>Chapter 18</td>
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<td>Week 15 May 1 – 3</td>
<td>Finish Climate change and Review Exam 4</td>
<td>Chapter 18</td>
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<td>Dead Day May. 5</td>
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FINAL EXAM  Friday May 12 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM
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. You should also fine an app or device that allow you to create pdf's for upload to Gradescope, where most assignments will be turned in...

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. Do not waste a lot of time trying to get your computer to work. (I know I do this sometimes)

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 without notice no makeup will be allowed, you can make it up using the optional final exam. 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.