

**GEOL 1313 (CRN 18716) and required coregistration in GEOL 1103 (CRN 16401)**  
**Physical Geology with a focus on the greater El Paso region**  
**Fall 2019: Fridays 9:00-10:50 am in Geology room 302**

Instructor: **Laura Serpa, Professor of Geophysics**

Email: [lfserpa@utep.edu](mailto:lfserpa@utep.edu) preferred contact: Blackboard

Office Hours: TBA, by appointment, online

Instructor: **Terry Pavlis, Professor of Geology**

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Office Hours: TBA, by appointment, online

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**Learning Objective:** *To give students a working knowledge of the physical world around them, including potential hazards and resources of their community and nearby regions.*

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**Goals:** 1. *Students will develop and apply observational skills through effective individual participation and meaningful team collaboration in local field activities.*  
2. *Students will examine their responsibilities to protect their communities from hazards related to changing earth systems.*  
3. *Students will identify, assess, and build on their understanding of the environment and develop strategies necessary to sustain their community in the future.*  
4. *Students will engage in research and critical thinking activities that demonstrate their ability to effectively integrate their understanding of the environment beyond academic settings.*

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to

- Demonstrate critical thinking skills about how scientists and engineers work to develop new ideas by making connections between observed phenomena and potential causes of the phenomena
  - Use basic knowledge gained in this course to develop new concepts or explain observations
  - Recognize and evaluate potentially faulty explanations for some observed phenomena and apply that knowledge to predictions of future issues such as climate change or population growth
  - Understand the need for accuracy and precision in both measurements and descriptions of events
  - Communicate their understanding about how things work orally, visually, and in writing.
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REQUIRED TEXT BOOK:

[Earth: An Introduction to Physical Geology plus MasteringGeology with Pearson eText, Global Edition](#)

12th Edition

[Edward Tarbuck](#), [Frederick Lutgens](#), [Dennis Tasa](#)

Make sure you have the book by the first week of class.

This class is a **HYBRID** class which means that more than 50% of the course is online. This is not a lecture class. You will be expected to take an active role in the class meetings. **Computer and Internet use in and out of class are absolutely required for this class.** You must bring an internet communication device—smart phone, tablet, or laptop computer—to class. You need to have your free UTEP email account activated for this course and you need to check it regularly. If you don't have one, go to <http://getmail.utep.edu> now to activate yours. All assignments and written communications will be submitted in Blackboard. **We will not accept papers turned in to us directly or emails that do not go through Blackboard without a very good justification.**

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### ***PROCESS:***

Check Blackboard at least every other day to make sure you have the latest assignments and information. I will **not** modify a Blackboard assignment or due date to accommodate individual students unless you have a documented disability that justifies the accommodation or other documented medical or family emergency excuse. The due dates are absolute and there is no way to take quizzes after they have closed. Assignments handed in late will be marked late and points (10% of total points) will be deducted for every day an assignment is late. We would prefer to see something incomplete turned in on time for partial credit than a late assignment or nothing at all.

#### **Before each class:**

- \* Read the assigned materials--make sure you have done this *before* class
- \* 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
- \* Answer the assigned questions and submit them before class begins

#### **During each class:**

- \* There will be quizzes and activities throughout the class (stay awake!)
  - \* Take careful notes
  - \* Be an active participant—including all classroom activities and discussions.
  - \* You will be part of a group and you are expected to be professional and contribute your share to the group.
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### ***COURSE REQUIREMENTS:***

**PARTICIPATION:** One intent of this course is for you to enjoy learning something useful because we will try to make it relevant to your lives. In order for this to work, you must come to class prepared to discuss the assigned topics. You should have a good understanding of the reading and bring a calculator, laptop/tablet/smart phone, ruler, and paper to use during every class. Do not wear clothing you cannot get a bit messy. Invest in a lab coat to protect your clothing if you must dress up for class.

**FIELD TRIPS:** We anticipate having 2 local field trips to look at geologic features. These field trips will probably take place on Saturdays and be for most of the day. We will come up with alternatives for those students who absolutely cannot participate in the Saturday field trips but they will not be as much fun as the actual trips. The field trips will replace some lab and/or class meeting times that we will identify during the course.

**HOMEWORK:** There will be homework assigned most weeks and unless otherwise noted, it will be **due the following Wednesday at 11 am**. Homework must be turned in on Blackboard. We will not accept any other submission unless there is some sort of catastrophe and Blackboard is not working.

**PROJECTS:** This class is very hands on and you will conduct research related to at projects. You will be asked to produce something that shows your comprehension of the material as a video and written report.

**TESTS/EXAMS:** We will have 2 high stakes exams worth a total of 30% of your final grade. One exam will be before the deadline to drop the class and the other will be near the end of the semester before or during finals week.

**PAPERS OR OTHER WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS:** You will be asked to write reports, turn in written answers to questions, reflections and homework. All of your written work will be graded for correctness in terms of answering a question, coherence, organization, and grammar. Plagiarism will not be tolerated under any circumstances and will result in a failing grade when it is detected.

**ORAL REPORTS:** There will be at least one and probably more assigned oral reports. These will be evaluated in much the same manner as a written report. That is, content, organization, and coherence will be the primary basis for grading.

**GROUP ASSIGNMENTS:** Much of the in-class activities and outside assignments will be group activities. Your role in the group will be evaluated by both the other group members and the observations of the instructor and peer leader. Regardless of your personal issues with any member of your group, you are expected to work professionally and show respect to all members of your group.

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## ***POLICY:***

**ATTENDANCE/LATENESS:** Each class begins with a quiz and ends with a written reflection. There are assignments throughout the class that you are expected to complete and turn in at specific times that day. If you do not turn them in on time then you will not receive points for completing them. If you know you have to miss a class, talk to the instructor and make arrangements to complete all of the required work ahead of time or online. If you are sick or there is a family emergency that you cannot reasonably anticipate, bring in documentation and discuss the problem with your instructor. If you are often sick and/or have lots of family emergencies, We can arrange for you to complete most of the work online and get credit for that work if it is turned in

within a time frame that matches that of the students working in class. You will still lose the class participation points in that case. If you miss more than 5 hours of class time due to unapproved absences or late arrivals/early departures you will be dropped from the course if it is prior to the drop deadline and will receive a failing grade for the entire class after the drop deadline.

**DEADLINES AND LATE WORK:** All assignments have a fixed due date and time that will be announced when the assignment is made. If you turn things in late, you will be docked 10% of the total possible grade for that assignment every day that it is late. I would prefer to receive an unfinished assignment on time than a late or missing assignment.

**MISSED TESTS AND QUIZZES:** You will not receive credit for any missed quizzes and they cannot be made up. Exams can be made up with properly documented justification for missing them but the make-up exam may be harder than the original exam.

**EXTRA CREDIT:** There is no extra credit available in this class

**CELL PHONES:** I would like to tell you to turn off your cell phones in class but there are several occasions where you may need them to complete an activity. Please mute your phones and ignore incoming messages and calls during class unless otherwise instructed by me to use your phone.

**CIVILITY/CLASSROOM CONDUCT:** Treat this class as if it is the job of your dreams and you do not want to be fired. That means you must behave professionally at all times and treat everyone in the class with respect. Disruptive or disrespectful behavior will reduce your class participation grade by the percent of time your behavior was unacceptable compared to the total time over which your behavior was evaluated for that day.

**UTEP FINAL EXAM POLICY** [From the 2017-18 UTEP Undergraduate Catalog]:

Exemption from final examinations cannot be given. Final examinations are scheduled to be two hours, forty-five (45) minutes in length and take place during the final examination period. It is the policy of the University not to administer a second final examination in a course. It is also University policy that students shall not have more than two final examinations in a single day. In the unlikely event that the examination schedule results in a student having three final examinations on a single day, the faculty member upon the request of the student shall reschedule the second of that student's three examinations.

**COPYRIGHT STATEMENT:** Some of the materials in this course are copyrighted.

Violation of US copyright law can result in civil damages up to \$100,000 for each work copied. Copying of textbooks is not "fair use" under the Copyright Act. The "fair use doctrine" only permits non-commercial copying of part (in general, not more than 10%) of a copyrighted work. Do not bring a copied textbook to this class. Your cooperation is expected

**STUDENT CONDUCT:** [From the Handbook of Operating Procedures: Student Affairs] All students are expected and required to obey federal, state, and local laws, to comply with the Regents' Rules and Regulations, with The University of Texas System and University rules and regulations, with directives issued by an administrative official of the U.T. System or The University of Texas at El Paso in the course of his or her authorized duties, and to observe standards of conduct appropriate for an academic institution.

**SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY:** [From the Handbook of Operating Procedures: Student Affairs] Any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

**DISABILITY STATEMENT:** If you have or suspect you have a disability and need an accommodation, you should contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at 747-5148 or at [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu) or go to Room 106 Union East Building.

**MILITARY STATEMENT:** If you are a military student with the potential of being called to military service and/or training during the course of the semester, you are encouraged to let me know well in advance.

**POLICY ON MAKE-UP EXAMINATIONS:** **NO** make-up exams will be given for reasons other than illness (doctor's note required), absence with the instructor's prior approval, or when a student is on official University business or has an unexpected family emergency (documentation required). There are no make ups for quizzes or in class activities. If you arrive late and miss something, it is your responsibility to get the information from other students and complete assignments on your own.

**POLICY ON ACADEMIC HONESTY:** **Academic Dishonesty will not be tolerated. All university guidelines will be strictly followed. Please read these guidelines carefully. If you have any questions regarding the university policy please contact the Dean of Students.**

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There is a short **quiz** at the beginning and a **reflection** at the end of each class, two **projects** and two **exams** during the semester.

**Grading:**

In-Class activities	10%
homework, online activities	15
2 projects (15% each)	30
Quizzes & reflections	15
2 Exams (15% each)	30
Total .....	100%

91-100 = A, 81-90 = B, 71-80 = C, 61-70 = D, 0-60 = F