

Geology 1211: Principles of Earth Science

Spring 2014, CRN 25123

T/Th 2:00-2:50 pm

Geology Building Room 123

Instructor:

Dr. Lixin Jin, Office: 221A Geology, Tel: 747-5559, email: ljin2@utep.edu
Office hours: T/Th 9:30-10:30 am or by appointment

Textbook (essential):

Earth Science and the Environment (4th edition) by Thompson and Turk

Lab Manual: The laboratory Manual for GEOL 1311 is available online at:

<http://www.geo.utep.edu/pub/GEOL1311> password: geol1311

You are responsible for bringing your own lab to class. Lab is mandatory.

Grading: Exams (50%); Quizzes (10%); Attendance (7%); Lab (33%)

Grading scale: A: 100-90%; B: 89-80%; C: 79-70%, D: 69-60%; F: below 60%.

Course Objectives: This course serves as an introduction to the topics of earth materials, plate tectonics, earthquakes, volcanoes, earth's atmosphere and climate. Students will also grow their scientific reasoning skills in the areas of construction and use of scientific models, making observations, data analysis and reasoning from evidence, and understanding the impact of Earth systems on human society and vice-versa.

<i>Week</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Lecture topics</i>	<i>Lab topic</i>
1	Jan. 21	Introduction, Logistics, Ch.1	No lab
2	Jan. 28	Plate tectonics, Ch.6, 7.3	Geography and Topography
3	Feb. 4	Earth structure, Ch. 7.6, 7.7, 9	Plate Tectonics
4	Feb. 11	Earthquakes, Ch. 7.1-7.4	Locating Earthquakes
5	Feb. 18	Exam I Minerals, Ch.2	Structures/Geological Maps
6	Feb. 25	Minerals, Ch.2	Minerals
7	Mar. 4	Rock cycles, Ch. 3.1 Igneous rocks, Ch. 3.2	Rock cycles/Igneous rocks
8	Mar. 11	Metamorphic rocks, Ch. 3.4 Spring break, no Class	No Lab
9	Mar. 18	Sedimentary rocks, Ch. 3.3 Exam II	Metamorphic rocks

9	Mar. 25	Composition of atmosphere, Ch.17	Atm. Temp/Pressure
10	Apr. 1	Energy balance in the atm, Ch. 18	Energy balance
11	Apr. 8	Moisture, Ch. 19.1-19.5 Water Cycles, Ch. 11.1	Moisture
12	Apr. 15	Air pressure/wind, Ch. 19.6-19.7	Wind and weather map
13	Apr. 22	Exam III Weather patterns, Ch. 19.8-19.11	Climate classification
14	Apr. 29	Climate/climate change Ch. 20, 21	Atm. CO ₂ and climate change
15	May 8	Review	
16	May 15	Exam IV (1:00 pm – 2:00 pm)	

The schedule may vary slightly from what is outlined here

Class policies: I follow University Policies as outlined in the academic regulations in the 2006-2008 Undergraduate Catalog (<http://www.utep.edu/catalogs/2006/2006-2008UG.pdf>). This includes the scholastic dishonesty policy as outlined in the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures that can be accessed under the student affairs link at <http://www.admin.utep.edu/hoop>. Cellular phones and pagers are to be turned off or placed in silent mode during class. Conducting telephone conversations or texting messages during class time are prohibited.

Attendance Policy: Class members are expected to attend all classes and laboratories. I reserve the right to drop you from the course if you miss more than 4 class meetings. Absences for University-recognized activities (e.g. sports, professional conferences), and religious holidays will be excused provided that you tell me at least a week ahead of time.

Missed Exam Policy: NO MAKE-UP EXAMS WILL BE GIVEN!!! So note these four important dates in your calendar right away. If you must be out of town on exam day, you must arrange to take the exam early. One exam with the *lowest* score will not be included in the grade compilation.

"If you have or suspect a disability and need an accommodation, contact Disabled Student Services (DSSO) at 747-5148 or at dss@utep.edu or visit us in Room 106 Union East Building."

Some advice:

- There are some 10 chapters in the textbook we cover and there are four exams. That is more than anyone can read the two nights before an exam. Conclusion: reading must proceed at a regular pace, along with, and preferably *before*, the corresponding lecture.
- **Quizzes** help students prepare for the typical questions on an exam and – in order to do well in the course – students need to be on a regular work-schedule preparing for quizzes and exams. Quizzes (likely once every week or every two

weeks) will be given during class. A missed quiz gives a zero score. One quiz with the *lowest* score will not be included in the grade compilation.

- **NO EXTRA CREDIT work** will be given in this class.
- **Drop Date:** Last day to drop a class with an automatic W.
- Ask questions in class.
- Use web page to get notes, study guides...
- Combine class notes, textbook, old homework, and web materials - each provides a different perspective.
- Treat the quizzes and review handout like a practice test-where do you think I get test questions?!
- Pay attention to the news and current events to see how they relate to geology.
- Tutoring is available from the University tutoring service in the Library.