

GEOL 1211--Principles of Earth Sciences

Instructor: Dr. Munazzam Ali Mahar

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Office: Geological Sciences room 224

Office hours: M&W: 10:30pm--11:30pm or by appointment

Course Description: 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.

You are required to register for and attend the laboratory section (GEOL 1111)

Textbook: Title: Earth Science & the Environment, Authors: Thompson & Turk Publisher: 4th edition.

Grading: Grades will be based in the following criteria and will be assigned using the scale:

Homework assignments 20 %

Quizzes 20 %

Midterm Exam 1 20 %

Midterm Exam 2 20 %

Final Exam 20 %

Grading Scale:

A= 90-100%

B = 80-89%

C = 70-79%

D = 60-69%

F < 60%

Quizzes: There will be (tentatively) weekly quizzes, based on the material covered in the previous class. These quizzes will be made available on Black Board. There will be 5 multiple-choice questions. These quizzes will count a total of 20% toward your final grade.

Homework: Homework assignments will be assigned in class and posted on Black Board. Homework must be turned in at the BEGINNING of class on the due date. NO LATE HOMEWORK WILL BE ACCEPTED. No homework may be submitted through email unless

prior arrangements have been made (with an excused absence). Homework assignments will count a total of 20% toward your final grade.

- *Working together on homework.* We encourage you to work with each other on homework assignments. However, each student must turn in his or her own assignment, written using his or her own words. Any student who fails to follow this rule will receive zero credit for the assignment.

Exams: There will be two midterm exams and one final exam. Exams will each consist of ~ 50 multiple-choice questions. Each exam counts 20% of your final grade.

- *Make-up/early exams:* Make-up exams will not be given except when a student misses the exam for a legitimate reason, such as illness or family emergency (a doctor's note is required in the case of illness). Please contact us as soon as possible if such a situation arises. Anyone with sporting event conflicts must provide at least one-week notice with appropriate signed paperwork.
- *Note that make-up and/or early exams will be essay format and will be substantially more difficult than the standard multiple-choice exam given to the rest of the class.*

Extra Credit: There are two extra credit projects that are each worth 5 points towards your exams grade. Students may complete as many of these projects as they like. Please note the deadlines to turn each of these in as noted in the class schedule.

- 1. *Research paper:* Pick a geologic topic of interest, and write a 3 page research paper (double spaced) about it. You are free to pick your own topic, but first get instructor's approval. Make sure to include a title, figures or photographs (1 minimum), and references (3 minimum, 2 may be webpages). Make sure to proofread your paper.
- 2. *Summary:* Watch a Nova, Discovery, National Geographic, or other television, video, documentary, online special, or scientific journal article with a geology focus. Write a 2 page summary (double spaced), including any relevant information and your thoughts on it.

Student Conduct and Plagiarism: University guidelines for acceptable student conduct are very specific and will be strictly followed. Please read the guidelines (<http://studentaffairs.utep.edu/dos>). Blind copying of intellectual material (text) from resources such as books, journals, and the Internet is plagiarism and is illegal. Instead, you should write things in your own words with a proper reference to your source. If any exercises or labs require you to look up an answer in something else than the class textbook, I will expect you to reference the source and write it in your own words. *Plagiarized work will receive "0" for the whole assignment and cannot be redone or made up.*

Drop Policy: The course drop deadline is November 2. You will need to fill out a Drop Card with the Registrar's Office to drop the course. Non-attendance will NOT result in being dropped, but you will get zeros for the remaining work and likely fail the class.

Students with Disabilities: If you think that you may have a disability or if you are experiencing learning difficulties, please contact the Disabled Student Services Office.

Tentative Lecture Schedule

Date	Lecture Topic	Book Chapter
AUG 27-29	What is geology and earth systems?	1
SEP 3	No class (Labor day holiday)	
05, 10	Plate tectonics	6, 7.3, 7.6
12, 17	Geologic Structures	9
19, 24	Earthquakes	7.1-7.4
26	Midterm Exam 1	
OCT 1, 3	Volcanoes	8
8, 10	Minerals	2
15, 17	Igneous rocks and rock cycle	3.1, 3.2
22, 24	Sedimentary and Metamorphic rocks	3.3, 3.4
29	Midterm Exam 2	
31, NOV 05	Deserts and Fresh water	14, 11
7, 12	Atmosphere	17
21, 26	Climate and climate change	20, 21
28	Oceans	
DEC 3	Review	
DEC 10	Final Exam	