



The University of Texas at El Paso

GEOL 1111: Principles of Earth Science



Lab Syllabus (stand-alone lab, separate from GEOL 1211)

Instructor/Lab Coordinator: Dr. Omar Belhaj, osbelhaj@utep.edu, Geology Rm 101-C
Teaching Assistant: To be Assigned

MODULE	DUE	TOPIC	QUIZ
Week One Module Aug 28 – Sept 1		Course Introduction	
Week Two Module Sept 4 – Sept 8	In lab	Minerals <i>(Labor Day holiday Sept 4)</i>	Quiz 1
Week Three Module Sept 11 – Sept 15 <i>(Sept 13 census)</i>	In lab	Rocks	Quiz 2
Week Four Module Sept 18 – Sept 22	In lab	Volcanic Hazards	Quiz 3
Week Five Module Sept 25 – Sept 29	In lab	Earthquakes and Hazards	Quiz 4
Week Six Module Oct 2 – Oct 6	In lab	Plate Tectonics I	Quiz 5
Week Seven Module Oct 9 – Oct 13	In lab	Plate Tectonics II	Quiz 6
Week Eight Module Oct 16 – Oct 20	In lab	Water on the Surface and Underground	Quiz 7
Week Nine Module Oct 23 – Oct 27	In lab	Oceans	Quiz 8
Week Ten Module Oct 30 – Nov 3 <i>(Nov 3 drop deadline)</i>	In lab	Atmosphere	Quiz 9
Week Eleven Module Nov 6 – Nov 10	In lab	Weather	Quiz 10
Week Twelve Module Nov 13 – Nov 17	In lab	Desert Environments and Wind	Quiz 11
Week Thirteen Module Nov 20 – Nov 24	Take Home exercise	<i>Thanksgiving Holiday: No class</i> Climate Change Lab as Homework.	No quiz
Week Fourteen Module Nov 27 – Nov 30	In lab	Environmental Footprint	Quiz 12/13
Week Fifteen Dec 4 – Dec 7		No lab	No quiz
Final Exam Week: Dec 11–15 NO FINAL EXAM FOR LAB CLASSES			

Course Schedule: Subject to change!

- Please check email and Blackboard announcements often for important information.
- Lab assignments available weekly on day of the lab (all assignments also released weekly on Blackboard). Please read associated material.
- **ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE TURNED IN VIA THE LAB MANUAL AT THE END OF EVERY SESSION, SO YOU MUST BE PRESENT!**
- Your TA will inform you how weekly quizzes will be administered.
- ***No makeups without justification. If the TA allows you to make up an assignment, it will be due within 3 days and you are responsible for printing the lab from Blackboard.***

Required Text: There is no required text for this class. All labs are developed by faculty or instructors and contained in a provided lab manual. Computer access is suggested but



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not mandatory for this course (see the online netiquette section for details on computing requirements).

Computing resources available in the UTEP Library: <https://www.utep.edu/library/about/library-hours.html>

GRADING: Grades will be based on the following criteria and will be applied using this scale:

Assignments	60%
Quizzes	40%
Grading Scale:	A: 90-100%, B: 80-89%, C: 70-79%, D: 60-69%, F: <60%

ASSIGNMENTS Every assignment is due in lab on the day of your lab: you will do the exercise in class and turn in the lab manual at the end of the lab period for grading. Late work will not be accepted without valid reason. For those assignments that are not due within the lab period, you will have one week from the assigned date to complete it. Every effort is made to align the lab course material with the associated lecture course, but at times the material will be covered out of sync.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Copy both the Instructor and TA on emails. Please include your name, the CRN section you are enrolled in as well as the time/date of your class.

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Omar Belhaj: osbelhaj@utep.edu
Office hours by email appointment only or drop by my office (GEOL 101-C).

TEACHING ASSISTANT:

The teaching assistant is responsible for the class instruction; for questions contact:

Email _____

Teaching assistant office hours: To be advised by your Teaching Assistant.

LEARN AND USE BLACKBOARD

All labs are on blackboard and a students should become familiar with using this system. Refer to the following links for help with Blackboard:

<https://www.utep.edu/technologysupport/>
<https://www.utep.edu/extendeduniversity/cid/index.html>

CELL PHONE USE: Please turn off your phone ringer when in class.

STUDENT CONDUCT: ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

The Department of Earth, Environmental and Resource Sciences has gone to great lengths to make learning the material easier than engaging in scholastic dishonesty, which is defined in the UTEP Student Handbook: [Chapter 1: Student Conduct and Discipline](#) and also at [Student Affairs](#). Proven violations of these detailed regulations may result in any of the consequences outlined in the Student Handbook.



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PLAGIARISM University guidelines for acceptable student conduct are very specific and will be strictly followed. Using another person's ideas, words, drawings, etc. without giving proper credit (through a citation) is considered plagiarism. This includes anything from a book, magazine, technical report or journal, or website. It ALSO includes anything copied from another student's paper or from a paper you wrote for another class where you received credit for it. Plagiarism is considered *Academic Dishonesty* and you will be reported to the Dean of Students if suspected of plagiarism (if you plagiarize as a professional it can cost you your job!) Furthermore, blind copying of intellectual material (text) from resources such as books, journals, and the internet is plagiarism and is illegal. Instead, you should write as you understand a concept in your own words, with a proper reference to the source if needed. If any exercises or labs require you to look up an answer in something else than the class textbook, we will expect you to reference the source and write it in your own words. Plagiarized work will receive a zero for the whole assignment and cannot be redone or made up.

Refer to the following site for more information: [Student Integrity](#)

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENT (AI): AI such as (CHATGPT, MIGHTYGPT, etc....) using is not allowed in this course.

DROP POLICY

The course drop deadline is **Nov 3, 2023**. Non-attendance will **not** result in being dropped, but you will get zeros for the remaining work and likely fail the class (in fact, this how many people fail). It is your responsibility to initiate withdrawal from the class.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

If you think you may have a disability or if you are experiencing learning difficulties, please contact the Center for Accommodation and Support Services (CASS) at: <http://sa.utep.edu/cass/>

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 your Teaching Assistant know well in advance.

POLICY ON MAKEUP LABS

Lab assignments are due during the lab period. No late work will be accepted unless otherwise arranged ahead of time.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Students will be familiar with Earth's Systems and spheres of study.
2. Students will be able to identify common Earth materials and interpret their composition, origin, uses and relationship. This will be measured through a lab assignment on application of Earth materials and minerals.
3. Students will be able to describe the processes operating at and beneath the Earth's surface, how those processes create the Earth's landscape, and how humans affect and are affected by the processes with respect to volcanism and formation of igneous rocks.
4. Students will be able to describe the processes operating at and beneath the Earth's surface, how those processes create the Earth's landscape, and how humans affect and are affected by the processes involving volcanism.
5. Students will understand how and where different kinds of sedimentary and metamorphic rocks form and how this is important to interpret the history of the Earth.



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6. Students will analyze and interpret the structures commonly found in geologic settings that inform geologists about Earth's history, processes and type of movement.
7. Students will infer relationships among abundances of different rock types to analyze the density variations found within the Earth and incorporate that into an understanding of the Earth's internal layers.
8. Students will synthesize information from divergent plate boundary types to unravel the nature and characteristics of divergent boundaries.
9. Students will interpret data from regional Texas earthquakes to understand the occurrence of earthquakes and how to analyze different types of earthquake information.
10. Students will synthesize information from transform and convergent plate boundary types to unravel the nature and characteristics of transform and convergent boundaries.
11. Students will learn about surface water by analyzing stream data, occurrences of floods in local areas and arroyos and identify associated features that will impact the landscape and how surface water behaves as it flows across the landscape.
12. Students will calculate their water footprint and analyze water data from well information to interpret conditions related to groundwater supply and usage.
13. Students will analyze images of White Sands dunes to infer processes at the surface and related to wind conditions.
14. Students will learn about climate change from tree ring growth and plot and interpret carbon dioxide data.

COVID-19 Precautions

Please stay home if you have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, so that we can work on appropriate accommodations. If you have tested positive for COVID-19, you are encouraged to report your results to covidaction@utep.edu, so that the Dean of Students Office can provide you with support and help with communication with your professors. The Student Health Center is equipped to provide COVID 19 testing.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that people in areas of substantial or high COVID-19 transmission wear face masks when indoors in groups of people. The best way that Miners can take care of Miners is to get the vaccine. If you still need the vaccine, it is widely available in the El Paso area, and will be available at no charge on campus during the first week of classes. For more information about the current rates, testing, and vaccinations, please visit epstrong.org