



GEOL 1111: Principles of Earth Science

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



Instructor/Lab Coordinator: **Dr. Omar Belhaj**

Geology Rm 206

Teaching Assistant: to be assigned

Course Schedule: Subject to change!

MODULE	DUE	TOPIC	QUIZ
Week One Module Jan 15–20		Course Introduction <i>(Martin Luther King Jr. holiday Jan 15)</i>	Pre-Quiz
Week Two Module Jan 22–26	In lab	Minerals	Quiz 1
Week Three Module Jan 29–Feb 2 <i>(January 31 census)</i>	In lab	Rocks	Quiz 2
Week Four Module Feb 5–9	In lab	Volcanoes and Volcanic Hazards	Quiz 3
Week Five Module Feb 12–16	In lab	Earthquakes	Quiz 4
Week Six Module Feb 19–23	In lab	Plate Tectonics I	Quiz 5
Week Seven Module Feb 26–Mar 1	In lab	Plate Tectonics II	Quiz 6
Week Eight Module Mar 4–8	In lab	Water on the Surface and Underground	Quiz 7
Week March 11-115	No lab	Spring break	
Week Nine Module Mar 18–22	In lab	Oceans	Quiz 8
Week Ten Module Mar 25–29 <i>(Mar 28 drop deadline)</i>	Lab or Take-Home exercise	Atmosphere Circulation and Global Climate <i>(Cesar Chavez Holiday-Spring Study Day/ Mar 29)</i>	Quiz 9
Week Eleven Module Apr 1–5	Lab or Take Home exercise	Moisture, Clouds, and Weather	Quiz 10
Week Twelve Module Apr 8–12	In lab	Deserts and Wind	Quiz 11
Week Thirteen Module Apr 15–19	In lab	Understanding Recent Climate Change	Quiz 12
Week Fourteen Module Apr 22–26	In lab	Environmental Footprint	Quiz 13
Week Fifteen Apr 29-May 3		No lab	Final Quiz
Final Exam Week: May 6–10 NO FINAL EXAM FOR LAB CLASSES			

- Check email and Blackboard announcements often for important information.
- Lab assignments available weekly on the day of the lab; read the material (all assignments also available on Blackboard)
- **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.***



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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 for this course (see the 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 the lab (Room 216, Geology building) 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 a 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 will be 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. You must 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 stop by my office (GEOL 206).

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 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: 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



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the UTEP Student Handbook [Chapter 1: Student Conduct and Discipline](#) and also at <https://www.utep.edu/hoop/>. Proven violations of these detailed regulations may result in any of the consequences outlined in the Student Handbook.

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 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 you are 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 things in your own words with a proper reference to the source. 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 "0" for the whole assignment and cannot be redone or made up.

Refer to the following site for more information: <https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/osccr/student-conduct/academic-integrity.html>.

GUIDANCE ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI): No use of AI (ChatGPT, MightyGPT, etc.) allowed in the course.

DROP POLICY

The course drop deadline is **Mar 28, 2024**. 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 is 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.



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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 the 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 the 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.
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 and 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 feel unwell, please let me know as soon as possible so 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