Course Description

Physical Geology is an introduction to our dynamic Earth introducing students to the materials and the processes that create and modify the features of our planet. This includes volcanoes erupt, where earthquakes occur, and how water, wind, and ice shape the landscape. Students will also gain an understanding of the ways humans have altered the planet including our impact on natural resources.

Catalog Description: GEOL 1313. Physical geology; study of Earth materials and processes.
(weekly assignment and one laboratory per week. GEOL 1313 require-  

Textbook info: Geology Open Education Resource

Course Objectives

- The student will learn concepts and vocabulary related to science important concepts that of of concern to us as citizens, educators: which may include collecting visual data as photographs.  
- The student will properly apply the scientific method to research methodology of attaining knowledge that sees to eliminate bias a hypothesis and a scientific theory.  
- The student will synthesize information from external sources an learn how scientists think. Scientists observe, question, and ana  
- The student will investigate real world examples by completing a associated issues from the El Paso area.  
- The student will practice independent thinking. Students will critic issues so they can make informed and independent decisions.  
- The student will communicate and defend their methodology and  
- The student will demonstrate their ability to download and use el browser plugins and animations to support learning.

Course Expectations

This course is 100% on-line component that incorporates active learning. the student because you will have to gather information on your own a lecture. Coursework is laid out in Learning Modules and should be acc includes not only links to each individual module and graded work but also  

You correspond with the instructor and with other students via the Email or people you designate. In contrast, postings using the Discussion link a respond. The Discussion tool will be used in each Learning Module. Fe something of interest to the class as a whole. I may edit and organize several means in which to get an answer: send the instructor a message  

We will be taking advantage of internet resources and software in this use programs such as Excel, your computer imaging processing program web browser plugins as needed. If you aren’t comfortable with your com learning. Don’t hesitate to contact the Help Desk for technical assistan computer labs in the library and UGLC have the latest software and br

Assessment
Grades will be based on the following criteria and will be assigned using the scale:

- A = 90-100%
- B = 80-89%
- C = 70-79%
- D = 60-69%
- F = < 60%

Procedures

- Class work will be posted and should be accessed under the introduction to the topic and class activities. Due dates are log in on a regular basis.
- You should access each Learning Module as soon as you can and note what needs to be done.
- If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to ask.
- I will typically visit the electronic classroom daily and will try to acknowledge all e-mails promptly, usually by 5pm. Questions and messages posted after 5pm or over the weekend may not be answered.
- Extra credit, if/when offered, is offered to the entire class, not to individuals.
- For technical difficulties please contact the Help Desk. I may also be able to help you.
- I make every attempt to present this class free of errors, but if you come across any, please email me and let me know so I can fix it ASAP.

Course Outline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic Description</th>
<th>Read</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Learning Module 1</td>
<td>Modu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to Physical Geology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Learning Module 2</td>
<td>Modu</td>
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<tr>
<td>Plate Tectonics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Learning Module 3</td>
<td>Modu</td>
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<tr>
<td>Matter &amp; Minerals</td>
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### Assessment & Grading Criteria

**Assignments: 40%**

Each Learning Module will have an accompanying assignment. These assignments will cover concepts from the modules and show how scientists work.

Assignments will be graded on a 20 point scale. The grade will be based on the quality of the work and how well the learner understands the concepts. Assignments are due on the indicated due dates. If you want your work reviewed, you must turn it in by the due date.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18-20</td>
<td>The activity is complete and correct. It shows insight and careful reflection on the topic. Sentences that respond to the questions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-17</td>
<td>The activity is essentially complete. The learner shows understanding of the topic, although the response is somewhat conceptual in nature.</td>
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The assignment can be accessed and submitted through the Blackboard Learn platform. You can also find the course syllabus and additional resources there.
<table>
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<th>Score</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12-14</td>
<td>The activity is missing one or two answers or there are complete lack of understanding.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-13</td>
<td>The activity is lacking more than one answer. Work is poorly done or lacks topics.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;10</td>
<td>Does not effectively address the activity, major portions are missing.</td>
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**Discussions: 20%**

In each discussion you will be tasked with preparing a presentation related to the topics covered in the discussions.

Discussions will be peer-graded in addition to receiving points for submission. The class will review all other discussions other than their own.

Half the grade for the class discussion will be earned for participation in the preparation of the presentation and commenting on the other presentations.

Most discussion assignments will require you to look up a topic on the internet and see what is available. You will write a couple of paragraphs about the topic and submit it on Blackboard in the discussion entry. The rubrics below will help to guide you.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Criteria for 1st Posting</th>
<th>Outstanding</th>
<th>Proficient</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Length</td>
<td>Each paragraph &gt;5 sentences</td>
<td>Each paragraph well written sentences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critical Thinking</td>
<td>Rich in content that demonstrates critical thinking, insight, and analysis</td>
<td>Substantial information which demonstrates thought, insight, and analysis has taken place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connections</td>
<td>Clear connections to previous or current content to real-life situations</td>
<td>Connections are not well developed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Topic related Question is provided for a classmate**

**Responds to student’s posted question** in a manner which demonstrates analysis has taken place. At least five well-written sentences are required.

Points are taken off for the following:

- The use of “I” instead of “I” when referring to another
- No punctuation
- Incomplete sentences
- Use of “text talk” as a response (e.g., btw, fyi)
- Abbreviating the names of states
- Not capitalizing states, first names, the beginning
Discussion Guidelines:

- Read all postings and respond to a variety of classmates. If possible, respond to them before posting to anyone else.
- Quote the relevant parts of any posting to which you are replying.
- There are no verbal or facial cues in our discussion area so be aware that what you may think you are trying to convey. The use of ?!!! or ??? may be viewed as anger.
- Flaming (i.e. deliberate rudeness, curse words, put-downs) is not allowed. A good rule of thumb is: if you wouldn't say it to the person face-to-face, don't type it.
- Please don't type your message in all caps. This is considered SHOUTING.
- Think before typing or taking offense at what a classmate has written. There are faces such as: ;->, ;(, :-@, or LOL (laughing out loud).

Reading Quizzes: 30%

There will be quizzes over the textbook readings and are designed to test your reading. You must take each quiz.

The quizzes will be automatically graded and will become unavailable after the due date.

Final Exam: 10%

The final exam in this course will be delivered online and will consist of:

UTEP Policies for Students

Informed Consent: Some individuals may choose to disclose personal information discussed or written about what others have discussed in class.
Disability Statement: Services for students with disabilities are provided through the assistance provided are: audio materials for the blind or dyslexic, note-taking services, and access to undergraduate academic tutors. In order to qualify for these services, documentation of a disability must be available in the Academic Support Center.

Military Statement: If you are a military student with the potential of being called to active duty, it is encouraged to contact the instructor regarding these matters.

Professionalism: Students are learning professional skills and are expected to engage in assignments in a timely fashion as befitting professional behavior.

Scholarly Writing: Use clear college-level writing with correct spelling and grammar. Use the Writing Center.

Integrated Use of Technology: Because this is an online course, I am making the assumption that you have access to various software programs like Microsoft Word, PowerPoint. If you have any questions about computer software, let me know.

Need Help?

1. Post a question to the Discussion Board. There is no such thing as a dumb question.
2. Post a question as a Blackboard email to your instructor.
3. Click on the Help button in Blackboard.
4. If the Blackboard system goes down or you have other technical questions, contact the UTEP $Respect$:

   Treat all students, faculty, staff and property with respect and in a courteous manner. Let your actions reflect pride in yourself, your institution, and your profession.

   $Kindness$:

   A kind word and gentle voice go a long way. Refrain from using profanity, inconsiderate gestures, or other behavior that might be offensive to others.

   $Truth$:

   Exhibit honesty and integrity in your dealings with fellow students, faculty, and staff.

   $Responsibility$:

   Take responsibility for your actions. This includes gracefully accepting criticism and responsibility for consequences.

   $Cooperation$:

   Exhibit a cooperative manner when dealing with students, faculty, and staff.

   $Acceptance$:

   Accept differences in others, as they accept differences in you. This includes respecting cultural, religious, and personal differences that make us unique individuals.

   $Professionalism$:

   Always conduct yourself in a manner that will bring pride to your profession and institution, and most importantly, to yourself.

Academic Integrity Policy and Procedures: Each student shall observe standards of honesty and integrity at all times. Any violation of these standards may be penalized for violations of the Academic Integrity policy. Please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy and Procedures for specific guidelines on what you consider to be violations of academic honesty.

Caveats: The schedule and procedures in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances.

Code of Civility: In order to promote a positive, professional atmosphere among students, faculty, and staff, the following code of civility is in effect:

- **Respect**: Treat all students, faculty, staff and property with respect, whether verbal or written. Let your actions reflect pride in your institution and profession.
- **Kindness**: A kind word and gentle voice go a long way. Refrain from using profanity, inconsiderate gestures, or other behavior that might be offensive to others.
- **Truth**: Exhibit honesty and integrity in your dealings with fellow students, faculty, and staff.
- **Responsibility**: Take responsibility for your actions. This includes gracefully accepting criticism and responsibility for consequences.
- **Cooperation**: Exhibit a cooperative manner when dealing with students, faculty, and staff.
- **Acceptance**: Accept differences in others, as they accept differences in you. This includes respecting cultural, religious, and personal differences that make us unique individuals.
- **Professionalism**: Always conduct yourself in a manner that will bring pride to your profession and institution, and most importantly, to yourself.