

GEOL 1425 Syllabus

Faculty Instructor: Dr. John Wickham

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Office Hours: T-R 12:30 – 1:00pm rm 125 Geoscience. Otherwise set up an appointment using e-mail.

Time and Place of Class Meetings: T-R @ 9:30 or 11:00 AM in room 100, Geoscience

Description of Course Content: An integrated study of the earth, emphasizing interactions between plate tectonics, the geosphere, the atmosphere, the oceans, the biosphere, and human activity.

Student Learning Outcomes: After completing the course, you should be able to describe: 1) the characteristics of plate tectonics and its driving mechanism; 2) origin and composition of common minerals and rocks; 3) how to determine relative and absolute time; 4) the interior of the Earth and the mechanisms that produce earthquakes, their magnitude and the type of damage inflicted; 5) deformational features produced by Plate Tectonics and related stresses; 6) the biosphere and development of biodiversity; 7) Controls on climate and its history; 8) the activity of surface and ground water and the hydrologic cycle; 9) ocean process and the interaction with the coast; 10) the effect of human activity on the Earth System.

Requirements: High School Chemistry, physics, Biology and math - Earth Science helpful.

Required Textbook: *Understanding Earth*, 6th ed. By Grotzinger & Jordan. Other materials provided or found on internet.

Descriptions of major assignments and examinations: There are homework assignments for each chapter, 4 mini exams and a final. Some Extra Credit may be provided. No make-up exams will be given except for those with an authorized absence, which includes an organized UTA sponsored activity, Religious holidays, or sick leave. All must be documented.

Attendance: *Learning requires multiple types of input. Lectures provide visual and auditory learning. Reading the Text is another way of engaging the mind. Repetition from reading and listening helps memory. Laboratory work provides active engagement. If you want to do well and learn the material, do all three learning activities.*

Grading: is based on homework assignments, 4 mini exams, the final exam and the lab. The weighting is as follows

- All Homework assignments = 10%
- Four Mini exams = 50% (12.5% each)
- One Final Exam = 15%
- The Lab = 25%

Drop Policy: Geol 1425 consists of a combined lecture and a lab. When you drop the lecture, the lab is automatically dropped as well. You can't drop only the lab. Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must

see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance; if you don't attend or turn in enough work, you will receive an F.** Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://wweb.uta.edu/ses/fao>).



The University Tutorial and Supplemental Instruction office provides tutoring services for this class. Supplemental Instruction, or SI, is a free service that helps student from this class work in groups to understand class concepts. Tutoring helps students develop and grow strong study habits by working one-on-one with a tutor. To find out when and where your class's SI session is, check the SI schedule at www.uta.edu/utsi. To register for tutoring services, visit the UTSI Office in Ransom Hall Room 205. For more information, visit www.uta.edu/utsi or call 817-272-2617.

Americans with Disabilities Act: The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

Academic Integrity: At UT Arlington, academic dishonesty is completely unacceptable and will not be tolerated in any form, including (but not limited to) "cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts" (UT System Regents' Rule 50101, §2.2). Suspected violations of academic integrity standards will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student's suspension or expulsion from the University.

Student Support Services: UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may contact the Maverick Resource Hotline by calling 817-272-6107, sending a message to resources@uta.edu, or visiting www.uta.edu/resources.

Electronic Communication: UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and

are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

Student Feedback Survey: At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as lecture, seminar, or laboratory will be asked to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS) about the course and how it was taught. Instructions on how to access the SFS system will be sent directly to students through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. UT Arlington's efforts to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback data is required by state law; student participation in the SFS program is voluntary.

Final Review Week: A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.