

GEOL 1301 – Earth Systems

Fall 2016 Syllabus

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Office Hours: After Class

Section Information: Geol 1301 sec 002

Class time and place: M-W 10:00am – 10:50; GS 100

Description of Course Content: An integrated study of the earth, emphasizing interactions between plate tectonics, the geosphere, the atmosphere, the hydrosphere, 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) 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) the effect of human activity on the Earth System.

Required Textbook: *LaunchPad, Understanding Earth*, 7th ed. By Grotzinger & Jordan.
Other materials provided or found on internet.

Descriptions of major assignments and examinations: There are homework assignments for each scheduled chapter, 3 mini exams, the lab and a final. Some Extra Credit may be provided.

Attendance: I do not take attendance, but learning requires multiple types of input. Lectures and class videos provide visual and auditory learning. Reading the Text and doing the homework on LaunchPad 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 of these learning activities.

Grading: is based on homework assignments, 3 mini exams, the final exam and the lab. The weighting is as follows

- All Homework assignments = 15%
- Three Mini exams = 55% (18.3% each)
- One Final Exam = 10%
- The Lab = 20%
- Extra credit will be added to the total course score and will be worth $\frac{1}{4}$ grade or 2.5%. Five of the assigned extra credits are required to get the full 2.5% addition. Otherwise the extra credit will be less than the 2.5%. Extra credit benefits those who are close to the next highest grade. For example if your total score was 87.5 and you did all the required extra credit, your final score would be 90.

Make-up Exams: If you miss an exam for any reason, your score on the final will be substituted for the missed exam, so that the final in that case would count 28.3%. If you miss more than one exam, it will count as a zero. If you miss the final, standard university acceptable excuses will apply: organized UTA sponsored activities, religious holidays, or sick leave. If those excuses are documented, the exam can be taken at another time. Otherwise a zero is recorded.



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.

Drop Policy: Geol 1301 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://www.uta.edu/ses/fao>).

Disability Accommodations: UT 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)*, *The Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act (ADAAA)*, and *Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act*. 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 disability. Students are responsible for providing the instructor with official notification in the form of a letter certified by the **Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD)**. Students experiencing a range of conditions (Physical, Learning, Chronic Health, Mental Health, and Sensory) that may cause diminished academic performance or other barriers to learning may seek services and/or accommodations by contacting:

- **The Office for Students with Disabilities, (OSD)** www.uta.edu/disability or calling 817-272-3364.
- **Counseling and Psychological Services, (CAPS)** www.uta.edu/caps/ or calling 817-272-3671.

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.

Non-Discrimination Policy: The University of Texas at Arlington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities, genetic information, and/or veteran status in its educational programs or activities it operates. For more information, visit uta.edu/eos. For information regarding Title IX, visit www.uta.edu/titleIX.

Title IX Policy: The University of Texas at Arlington (“University”) is committed to maintaining a learning and working environment that is free from discrimination based on sex in accordance with Title IX of the Higher Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs or activities; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII), which prohibits sex discrimination in employment; and the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE Act). Sexual misconduct is a form of sex discrimination and will not be tolerated. *For information regarding Title IX, visit www.uta.edu/titleIX or contact Ms. Jean Hood, Vice President and Title IX Coordinator at (817) 272-7091 or jmhood@uta.edu.*

Academic Integrity: Students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington’s tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.

I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System Regents’ Rule 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university’s standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) 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.

Lab Safety Training is available in Blackboard (use link). Students registered for this course

must complete all required lab safety training prior to entering the lab and undertaking any activities. Once completed, Lab Safety Training is valid for the remainder of the same academic year (i.e., through the following August) and must be completed anew in subsequent years. There are no exceptions to this University policy. Failure to complete the required training will preclude participation in any lab activities, including those for which a grade is assigned.

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” shall be directed to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student’s feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington’s effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

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.

Emergency Exit Procedures: Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room using the back exit or the side door near the front of GS 100. If you exit out the back of the room, there are building exits to your left and right. The side door exit of room 100 leads outside. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist handicapped individuals. If you haven’t done so already, sign up for the emergency MavAlert App at <https://mavalert.uta.edu/register.php>

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 visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to resources@uta.edu, or view the information at

www.uta.edu/resources. **The IDEAS Center** (2nd Floor of Central Library) offers **free** tutoring to all students with a focus on transfer students, sophomores, veterans and others undergoing a transition to UT Arlington. To schedule an appointment with a peer tutor or mentor email IDEAS@uta.edu or call (817) 272-6593.