
GEOLOGY 1101 001**Fall 2026****EARTH SCIENCES I LABORATORY****SYLLABUS****Lab: Room STEM 375****DR. Rex E Crick**

Instructor: Dr. Rex E Crick
Office: STEM 375
Lab: Wednesday (W) 1100 – 13:45 @STEM 375
Office Hours: by appointment) STEM 375
Email: rex.crick@tamusa.edu

Course Description:

A survey of the natural processes at work in the atmosphere, lithosphere, hydrosphere, and biosphere of the Earth, as well as Earth's place in the universe. Includes an introduction to astronomy, geology, oceanography, and meteorology. Designed to fulfill laboratory science core curriculum requirements.

Learning Objectives:

Students will be able to define and discuss fundamental earth science principles.
Students will be able to recognize and apply latitude and longitude to and from topographic maps
Students will be able to identify and discuss the characteristics of planets in the solar system.
Students will be able to integrate an understanding of how the coupled ocean/atmosphere system controls the earth's weather.
Students will be able to describe and distinguish the different materials that comprise the earth.

Instruction:

Laboratory exercises, Internet assignments, recorded lectures/previews of labs, lab quizzes, and exams.

Cell Phones: Lab is a **cell phone free zone** for calls and texting. If you must call or text, please do so outside of the lab.

BLACKBOARD ULTRA: <https://tamusa.blackboard.com>

Blackboard will be used to communicate information about the course. Course documents, lecture material, videos, and links will be available on blackboard for downloading, viewing, or printing. Students will use Ultra to check the status of their performance in the course. It is a student's responsibility to check Blackboard for new announcements, course materials, and to report promptly any errors in your grades.

Course schedule: The lab/lecture topics, readings, and quiz dates are listed on the following course calendar. Topics and dates *may* change as necessary; **quiz dates will not**. Please complete the reading assignments prior to each lab. Time spent in lab reading assigned readings is less time available for completion of labs.

Lab Meetings: Labs are 2 h 45 min in length and will always begin with an introduction to that week's exercise. Exercises are completed within the period of the lab. There is no provision for completing lab exercises outside of the scheduled lab class period.

Lab Equipment to be supplied by student: Internet device (laptop or iPad tablet) capable of accessing Ultra and specialized apps/programs on internet and for the taking of quizzes. Cellphones are not adequate for the course.

Late to Lab: Labs begin promptly at 11 AM. Missing all or a part of the introductory lecture/explanation normally leads to problems related to understanding, stress related to time, lower grades, and disruption to the class (see next paragraph). There are no provisions for making up lost time.

Missing Lab: *Texas A&M University Student Rule #7: the university views class attendance as an individual student responsibility. Students are expected to attend class and to complete all assignments within the allotted time. Disruptions caused by late arrivals are to be avoided.* Students incapable of being on time are referred to Student Services Counselling. Valid excuses for being absent (those recognized by the university) are explained below (**Course Mechanics and Course Management**)— all such absences require documentation, and missed exercises must be made-up during scheduled lab time. ***Never assume that an undocumented absence will be excused.*** The full text of A&M Rule #7 is provided.

Required OER Lab Manual and Online Resource

1. **OER #1: GEOS: A PHYSICAL GEOLOGY LAB MANUAL** (OER NO COST)**
2. **OER #2: Lab Manual: Investigating the Earth: Exercises for Physical Geology** (OER NO COST)**
3. **SELF-CONTAINED LAB EXERCISES PROVIDED BY PROFESSOR**

****Note:** OER texts are available on class web site

Geology 1101 001 Course Schedule

Lab	Date	Topic	OER #1	OER #2
1	8/26	Introduction to Science and the Geosciences	1+	
Quiz	8/26	A&M Test Taking Guidelines Quiz (1 pt) Due 8/31@11:59:59 PM	Syllabus	
Quiz	8/26	Syllabus and A&M Rule 7 Quiz (1 pt) Due 8/31@11:59:59 PM	Syllabus	
Quiz	8/26	Knowledge of Academic Integrity Requirements at A&M-SA (5 pts) Due 8/31@11:59:59 PM	Syllabus	
2	9/2	Imagery and Maps in the Geosciences	2+	
*****	9/9	CENSUS DATE		
3	9/9	Minerals and Mineral Identification	3	
4	9/16	Rocks and Their Identification (self-contained Lab)	+	
Quiz 1	9/23	Quiz 1: LABS 1-4 (11 to 11:20 AM)		
5	9/23	Internal Earth	4+	
6	9/30	Plate Tectonics	5+	
7	10/7	Earthquakes	6.1 only	9
8	10/14	Geologic Time	14+	
Quiz 2	10/21	Quiz 2: LABS 5-8 (11 to 11:20 AM)		
9	10/21	Surface Water Processes (self-contained Lab)	+	
10	10/28	Desert Processes and Landforms	18	
11	11/4	Oceanography, Coastal Processes, and Landforms	17	
12	11/11	Seasons (self-contained Lab)	+	
13	11/18	Storms (self-contained Lab)	+	
		 THANKSGIVING BREAK 		
Quiz 3	12/2	Quiz 3: LABS 9-13 (11 to 11:20 AM)		

+ = additional assigned reading outside of Lab Manual – check associated Module

Items to be accessed and completed on or before August 31st

1) Acquisition of Respondus Browser and Respondus Monitor (Welcome Module)

TAMSUA requires Respondus Lockdown Browser and Respondus Monitor for all quizzes and exams in courses where proctoring is difficult. GEOL 1301 is one such course. Free access to Respondus Lockdown Browser and Monitor at this [LINK](#). All problems linked to Respondus should be directed to IT/eLearning Helpdesks.

a) Carefully read A&M Test Taking Guidelines (This Module)

b) **Take A&M Test Taking Guidelines quiz** (This Module)

i. Closed book quiz (Respondus proctored **but** with unlimited attempts through Aug 31st) **[1% Course Grade]**

2) Take Syllabus Quiz before August 31st (requires following resources) [1% Course Grade]

a) Requires functioning Respondus Lockdown Browser.

b) See Course Syllabus & Student Resources Page Within Welcome Module. Official TAMU syllabus for the course.

c) See Dr. Crick's Course Syllabus and Course Schedule (Welcome Module)

d) See Rule #7 (Welcome Module)

e) Closed book (**honor system**) (Respondus proctored **but** with unlimited attempts through Aug 31st)

3) Complete Academic Integrity Module with a Score $\geq$ 95% before Aug 31st [5.0% Course Grade]

All campuses of the Texas A&M System are committed to the maintenance of the highest standards of integrity and ethical conduct of its students. The level of ethical behavior and integrity is monitored throughout the course. Scores <95% receive no points.

To elevate each student's awareness of the seriousness of academic misconduct at the University and its importance to TAMUSA, GEOL 1301 students are required to access the **Academic Integrity Module** within the Welcome Module ([1st Module on the class homepage](#)). Once there, complete the following:

a) Read *Academic Misconduct at A&M-SA with Specifics and Consequences for GEOL 1301, GEOL 1101, and GEOL 1102*

b) View PDF *Academic Integrity at A&M-SA*.

c) Take quiz *Knowledge of Academic Integrity Requirements at A&M-SA*. Closed book (**honor system**) (Respondus proctored but with unlimited attempts through Aug 31st)

Course mechanics and Course management

The mechanics and management of the course conform to Texas A&M University Student Rule 7.

This is A&M's governing rule for all students. Rule #7 states that *the university considers it the responsibility of the individual student to complete all assignments within the allotted time (see paragraph #1 below)*. **Valid excuses** for being absent or being unable to complete assignments/exams (**those excuses recognized by the University**) are explained in paragraph #2 – all valid excuses require documentation and **only** excused exercises/exams can be made-up.

Undocumented absences are rarely excused. The list of "valid excuses" does not make reference to internet outages unless that outage affects TAMUSA's campus operations. Nor does the list make reference to "running out of time", "my computer died", "I forgot", "I was busy with other courses", "I over slept", "I was not feeling well this morning", "my car would not start", etc. While I always empathize with students, I rarely oblige.

Texas A&M University-San Antonio (TAMUSA) provides on-campus mental health care through the [Student Counseling Center](#), located in Madla 120. It is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM (closed from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM). Enrolled students get free, confidential counseling services. You can reach them at (210) 784-1331.

1. Attendance/Participation: The University views class "attendance" as class participation and an individual student responsibility. Students of a F2F class are expected to **do all the following:**

a. **Check Ultra Messages or Student e-mail at least once a day and before attending class.**

- b. **visit class pages on Ultra at least once a day** to check messages from the professor related to class matters (there are always the possibilities of updates, new videos, changes due to current happenings in the geosciences like major earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and weather phenomena),
- c. **visit the class pages on Ultra at least once a day to check for assignments or changes to assignments, and**
- d. **visit the class pages on Ultra at least once a day to make certain that assignments and quizzes are complete.** Students can check, through gradebook, if an assignment is complete and submitted. This is the student's responsibility.

Missing deadlines (not coming to class) on the completion of assignments and quizzes is solely the responsibility of a student and never an acceptable excuse for requesting a late submission. There is no mechanism for regaining lost points from not attending class.

CLASS MEETINGS: Class meetings are interactive face-to-face meetings:

- a. Labs begin at 11 AM with announcements and a presentation to explain the lab exercise.
 - b. Quizzes are timed (usually 20 minutes) and begin at 11 AM.
 - c. Work begins on lab exercises after the 11 AM presentation or after quizzes. This leaves approximately 2 h 20 min for completion of each lab exercise.
 - d. Work not completed by 13:45 PM will be collected and graded as incomplete (Rule 7).
- 2. Texas A&M University Student Rule 7:** the university views class attendance as an individual student responsibility. Students are expected to attend class and to complete all assignments.
- 3. LAB EXERCISES/ASSIGNMENTS:** It is the responsibility of each student to be familiar with the assigned reading for each lab **before** coming to class. **Answer sheets for each lab will be distributed at the beginning of lab.** Labs assigned from the OER text "**GEOS**" (70%) do have questions, but most relate to areas of California. Most answer sheet questions will relate to regions of Texas. The assigned text reading for self-contained exercises (30%) will not have questions. All questions to be answered will be presented on **Answer Sheets** supplied at the beginning of each lab period. On days assigned to OER Exercises, students will want to bring to class an internet device capable of accessing JagWire and the course webpage for access to the OER Lab manual or materials assigned to self-contained labs. **Lab exercises account for 50% of the course grade.**
- a. **Geology is not a static science** – As such, students should expect the integration of current geologic events happening on or within Earth. This material, when relevant, will replace some or all of a scheduled lab topic. Material covered in these discussions/lectures will not be available outside of lab. These materials will also constitute the basis for quiz questions and lab exercises where and when appropriate.
- 4. QUIZZES:** Three **Quizzes** (duration ~20 minutes) ***will be given at the beginning of the chosen lab*** (see attached schedule). Quizzes will be comprehensive (whether covered in quizzes, exercises or not), the material in the lab often builds on previously studied concepts. Once a concept has been introduced in lab, that concept is fair game for subsequent quizzes – this is a huge benefit as means of reviewing material over the semester. **Quizzes account for 45% of the course grade.**
- a. You will need to bring to class on the day of a quiz/exam a **laptop or iPad** capable of running the most recent student version of **Respondus Browser**. Respondus is provided by TAMUSA at HOME>INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES>CUSTOMER SUPPORT>[RESOURCES](#). Scroll down page to the link Install Respondus Lockdown Browser and follow instructions.
- 5. FINAL EXAM:** Comprehensive (cumulative) for all material introduced during the semester to include assigned readings (whether covered in quizzes, exercises or not). Students will need to bring to class on the day of the Final Exam a laptop or iPad capable of running the most recent student version of Respondus Browser. **The Final Exam is worth 20% of the course grade.**
- 6. Questions about grades:** Questions or concerns about a grade on an exam or assignment should be brought to my attention within one week after the day grades are posted. Normally after one week, the grade will stand as

recorded; there will always be legitimate exceptions.

7. **Excused Absences:** If you miss an exam because of illness, you should contact me as soon as possible by Blackboard email or at rex.crick@tamusa.edu. If need-be, have a friend, spouse, partner, or parent contact me by email; communication is essential. ***Never assume that an undocumented absence will be excused. Consult the details of Rule #7 before considering an absence that does not meet the definition of an Excused Absence.***
8. **Valid Excuses for Being Absent** (requires some form of documentation) – See full list in Rule #7 Appendix:
 - a. Significant illness of the student, household member, or immediate family member, including hospitalization.
 - b. Death of immediate family member or household member.
 - c. Religious Holidays.
 - d. Interviews for full-time job opportunities after graduation and for graduate or professional school.
9. **Managing Your Class Schedule**
 - a. There are only thirteen (13) meetings of the Lab, missing only one lowers the course grade by 7%, missing two – 14%,
 - b. There is no opportunity for extra credit.

10. **Final Course Grade computation:**

Distribution of Points		
*Test Taking Quiz	1.0%	**Before EOD 8/31 & 100%
*Syllabus/Rule 7 Quiz	1.0%	**Before EOD 8/31 & Grade of 100%
*Academic Integrity	5.0%	**Before EOD 8/31 & Grade of >=95%
***Lab Assessments (13)	48%	See Deadlines
Quizzes (3)	45%	See Dates
TOTAL	100%	
**Non-participation by EOD (end of day) 8/31 = loss of pts		

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***Each lab is worth 3.7 points of course total average

11. **Academic Misconduct: "An Aggie does not lie, cheat or steal, or tolerate those who do."**

- a. Texas A&M University is dedicated to the discovery, development, communication and application of knowledge in a wide range of academic and professional fields and assumes as its historic trust the maintenance of freedom of inquiry and an intellectual environment nurturing the human mind and spirit. Living in accordance with the **Aggie Code of Honor** is critical to these ideals, to the goal of assuming a place of preeminence in higher education, and to the development of the whole student.
- b. **Students are always expected to do their own course work; anything else is either cheating, collusion, or plagiarism.** All instances of academic misconduct bring either an 'F' for an assignment or an 'F' in the course if the misconduct is sufficiently egregious (multiple student involvement). All instances are referred to Student Rights and Responsibilities Committee for additional non-academic sanctions, including probation, suspension, or expulsion. Each instance of academic misconduct becomes a permanent part of a student's A&M record and transcript.
- c. How to avoid academic misconduct in GEOL 1101/1102:
 - i. Simply do your own work and do not rely on other students.
 - ii. Do not share work with another student.
 - iii. Do not ask another student for assistance or for answers. Ask professor for assistance.
 - iv. Do not use or rely on internet for answers. The use of the internet/AI, unless authorized, is a violation of A&M Honor Code.
- d. Professor will conference with student(s) show evidence in private and advise of the penalty to be proposed to Student Rights and Responsibilities Committee. The evidence will be retained for at least one full year.
- e. Please review the Student Handbook for a complete description of the process. The Student Handbook is available through the Student Rights and Responsibilities webpage: <https://www.tamusa.edu/student-rights-and-responsibilities/index.html>.

12. A&M-SA Grade computation and grading procedure:

*Percentage	Letter Grade
91 – 100	A
81 – 89	B
71 – 79	C
61 – 69	D
Below 61	F

*The change in range of percentages equating to letter grades is the beginning of A&M's fight against grade inflation. Difference courses may use slightly different percentage ranges.

13. Do not forget the quizzes due by EOD 8/31. These are online and taken with Respondus.