
GEOLOGY 1101 01L

Spring 2026

EARTH SCIENCES I LABORATORY

SYLLABUS

Lab: Room STEM 375

DR. Rex E Crick

Instructor: Dr. Rex E Crick
Office: STEM 375
Lab: Thursday (R) 8 am – 10:45 am @STEM 375
Office Hours: R 7:30 am – 8 am (or 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 lecture topics, readings, and quiz and exam dates are listed on the following course calendar. Lecture topics and dates *may* change as necessary; **exam dates will not**. Please complete the reading assignments prior to each lecture.

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.

Late to Lab: Labs begin promptly at 8 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 paragraph #1).

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 (see paragraph #1).* Valid excuses for being absent (those recognized by the university) are explained in paragraph #7 – all require documentation, and these missed exercises can be made-up during scheduled lab time. **Never assume that an undocumented absence will be excused.** (see paragraph #6). **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 01L Course Schedule

Lab	Date	Topic	OER #1	OER #2
1	1/22	Introduction to Science and the Geosciences	1+	
Quiz	1/22	Syllabus and A&M Rule 7 Quiz: Due 1/25@11:59 PM		
2	1/29	Imagery and Maps in the Geosciences	2+	
*****	2/4	CENSUS DATE		
3	2/5	Minerals and Mineral Identification	3	
4	2/12	Internal Earth	4+	
Quiz 1	2/19	Quiz 1: LABS 1-4 (8 am)		
5	2/19	Plate Tectonics	5+	
6	2/26	Earthquakes	6.1 only	9
7	3/5	Rocks and Their Identification (self-contained Lab)	←+	
	3/12	SPRING BREAK		
8	3/19	Geologic Time	14+	
Quiz 2	3/26	Quiz 2: LABS 5-8 (8 am)		
9	3/26	Surface Water Processes (self-contained Lab)	←+	
10	4/2	Desert Processes and Landforms	18	
11	4/9	Oceanography, Coastal Processes, and Landforms	17	
12	4/16	Seasons (self-contained Lab)	←+	
Quiz 3	4/23	Quiz 3: LABS 9-12 (8 am)		
13	4/23	Storms (self-contained Lab)	←+	
Final	4/30	COMPREHENSIVE FINAL EXAM		

+ = additional reading – check associated Module

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”, etc.

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. **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),
 - b. **visit the class pages on Ultra at least once a day to check for assignments or changes to assignments,** and
 - c. **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 showing up to class.

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

- a. Labs begin at 8 am with announcements and a presentation to explain the lab exercise.
 - b. Quizzes are timed (usually 20 minutes) and begin at 8 am.
 - c. Work begins on exercises after the 8 am presentation or after quizzes. This leaves approximately 2 h 20 min for completion of each lab exercise.
 - d. Work not completed by 10:45 AM will be collected and graded as an incomplete lab exercise (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 30% 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 14 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:**
 - a. Quizzes = 30%
 - b. Exercises = 50%
 - c. Final Exam = 20%
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 expected to do their own course work. Simple cases of first offense cheating or plagiarism by a student or students may be handled by the professor after consultation with the Honor Council. Professors will confront students with the evidence in private and advise of the penalty to be assessed. The evidence will be retained for at least one full year.
 - c. Academic misconduct is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct; therefore, the professor is required to report any form of academic misconduct to the Honor Council. For more serious cases, such as those involving repeated offenses, conspiracy with other students or the theft and selling of examination questions, students may be subject to grade sanctions in courses but also to disciplinary action.
 - d. Penalties applied by the Honor Council for academic dishonesty range from a grade reduction to zero on a particular assignment, to a zero in the course, suspension for an academic year, or expulsion from the University.

- e. The decision by the Honor Council will be noted on a student's official transcript and becomes a permanent part of an A & M student's file.
- f. 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. Grade computation and grading procedure:

Percentage	Letter Grade
90 – 100	A
80 – 89	B
70 – 79	C
60 – 69	D
Below 60	F

13. Your success in this course is my most important semester goal! Communication is necessary before I can help with problems that always arise.

14. Do not forget the syllabus and Rule 7 quiz