# General Syllabus for a Hybrid GEOL 5401

The course is a hybrid course which requires you to access most materials online outside of class time. The textbook is essential to the course and you are not likely to pass the course without using the textbook and the internet effectively.

Syllabus of Course Information

Instructor: Laura Serpa

Office Hours: To be determined

Office: Geology 302a Phone: 747-6085

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Required Text: Tarbuck, Lutgens and Tasa, ***Earth: An introduction to Physical Geology***, 11th Edition, Pearson Publishing. You will also need to be able to register for the Mastering website associated with the book . If you buy a used book, you may have to pay extra for this access. I strongly recommend you purchase an e-book or unbound book if you want an inexpensive new book but make sure the Mastering access is included.

**What I expect you to get out of this class.**

1) Learning to observe and ask questions. This class will teach you to look at the world around you and ask questions about why things look like they do.

2) Understanding the forces and history that shape our landscape.

3) Concepts and vocabulary. A big part of any introductory science is vocabulary. We need to have the same meanings for the words we use so that we can communicate. There are also several important concepts that are of concern to all of us as citizens and scientists.

4) Thinking like a scientist. You should begin to think like a scientist. Scientists observe, question, and analyze.

5) Learning about El Paso. El Paso is an incredible place to learn about Geology. I will include examples wherever possible.

6) Enjoyment. This should be a class where you learn a lot and also have a good time. Participation is a key to enjoyment.

7) The tools necessary to make intelligent decisions about your future with respect to the planet on which you live.

Computer and Internet use outside of class are required for this class.  You need to have your free UTEP email account activated for this course and you need to check it regularly. If you don't have one, go to <http://getmail.utep.edu> now to activate yours.  We will be experimenting with internet activities this semester so the syllabus will certainly change as the class evolves.

**Process:**

This class is a bit different than a traditional lecture class. You will be required to work outside of a formal classroom most of the time. Our class meetings will be to do activities, take tests, or discuss the material. You must be self-motivated to survive this type of class and you cannot fall behind. Everything is scheduled and due at fixed times that will be clearly specified. No deadlines will be reset unless there is a major disaster that affects all students at UTEP. If you fail to complete the work on time and have a very good excuse, I will exclude the material in my grade calculation.

Outside of class meetings:

* Read the assigned materials
* Identify concepts that are central to understanding the topics to be discussed
* Prepare a list of questions from the reading for which you need further clarification
* Check the folder in Blackboard for additional materials you need to read, watch, or otherwise do something with.
* There will be multiple quizzes and discussions online that you must complete for a grade during each week. Once the quiz or discussion board is closed, it will not be available to you and you will receive a failing grade if you have not completed it.
* You must participate in the discussions when they are assigned

During each class:

* Turn off the sound on your cell phone when you enter the classroom and leave it off.
* Engage in discussions and ask questions but be respectful of your classmates and give them a chance to be heard
* Participate in activities

## Grading:

1. Discussions, Activities, Assignments 20 %

2. Quizzes 20 %

3. 3 Exams and a Final (20 pts each) 80 %

Drop lowest grade from 1-3 above - 20 %

Total possible 100%

100 - 90% A

89 - 80% B

79 - 70% C

69 - 60% D

59 - 0 % F

## Schedule:

All of the reading, quizzes, discussion boards, other assignments are due at 5 pm on Tuesday of the week following the assigned topic. The assignments will not be available after that time.

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| Module | Week | Topic and Reading assignment |
| **Module 1**    A framework for studying the earth | Week 1 | Introduction, nature of geology and geological investigations--chapter 1 in your textbook. |
| Week 2 | Plate Tectonics--chapter 2 |
| Week 3 | Minerals and Igneous rocks--chapter 3 and 4 |
| Week 4 | Volcanoes--read chapter 5  mass wasting—Chapter 15 |
|  | Week 5 | review and **Exam 1/project 1** |
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| **Module 2**    Shaping our environment | Week 6 | Weathering and Soils --chapter 6 |
| Week 7 | Sedimentary rocks and Rivers--chapter 7 and 16 |
| Week 8 | shorelines, and oceans--chapters20 and 13 |
| Week 9 | Ground water and water resources--chapter 17  Deserts and wind --chapter 19 |
|  | Week 10 | review and **Exam 2/project 2** |
| **Module 3**    Deep processes | Week 11 | Metamorphic rocks and deformation--chapters 8 and 10 |
| Week 12 | Earthquakes and the Earth's interior--chapters 11 and 12 |
| Week 13 | Convergent Boundaries—Chapter 14  Geologic time—Chapter 9 |
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|  | Week 14 | **Exam 3/project 3** |
|  |  | **Final Exam** **/Project** |