

GEOL 1103 – Physical Geology Lab Syllabus– Fall 2014

Sul Ross State University, Department of Biological Geological & Physical Sciences

Primary Instructor: Ms. Jesse Kelsch, MS / WSB 316 / 837-8657 / jkelsch@sulross.edu

Teaching Assistants: Jesus Hermosillo, Nathan Knox, Chris Pate

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Office hours:

Jesus: M 9:30-11:30; F 9-12

Nathan: MW 3-5; Thur 1-2

Chris: M 11-12; W 10:30-11:30, 3-5

Course Description:

The major objective of this lab is to provide an opportunity for the student to learn and use hands-on practices and principles of geology in a laboratory setting

Required Text and Materials:

Copies of the lab for each week will be placed on Blackboard for GEOL 1303. It is your responsibility to print them out before coming to lab each week. The first week's lab will be printed for you.

Methods of Evaluation and Grading:

Labs: There will be 12 laboratory assignments this semester, each worth 20 points. Labs are to be worked on during lab time but are due at the beginning of the next lab period. There will be no make-up labs allowed without prior clearance.

Lab Participation: It is assumed that students will actively participate in the lab discussions and exercises. Students are expected to prepare for these exercises by printing and reading the week's lab before coming to class. There will be a 5-point quiz at the beginning of every lab except the first one.

Points: The required lab assignments and quizzes total 350 points:

Lab Exercises	300 (25 each)	
10 Quizzes	50 (5 each)	Total pts 350

Grading: Final course grade will be based on a percentage of the total points as follows:

90.00-100% = A / 80.00-89.90% = B / 70.00-79.90% = C / 60.00-69.90% = D / Less than 60.00% = F

Attendance: Attendance will be documented in the form of a quiz at the beginning of each lab period. Quizzes cannot be made up. You will be considered absent if you show up after all the quizzes are turned in. You will receive a "0" for your final grade if you miss three labs.

Class disruption: CELL PHONES MUST BE TURNED OFF DURING LECTURES AND QUIZZES, AND ON SILENT DURING LAB WORK.

Plagiarism/Cheating Policy: The student is referred to the student handbook on Academic Honesty. If you are caught cheating or plagiarizing you will either be brought before the dean of the College with expulsion proceedings initiated, or given an F in the course. All work turned in must be your own.

Sul Ross State University is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request for accessibility services. If you have a disability, find out what your resources are: Students seeking accessibility services must contact Mary Schwartz in Counseling and Accessibility Services, Ferguson Hall, Room 112. The mailing address is PO Box C-171, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas 79832. Telephone: 432-837-8203.

General Objectives: Each student will develop:

1. Knowledge about the application of the scientific method as a tool for understanding Earth's processes
2. Knowledge about the composition and formation of common rocks and minerals
3. An understanding of the internal and external processes that create Earth's major landforms such as plate tectonics and weathering
4. Ability to identify and interpret structural features in Earth's crust such as faults and folds, and knowledge of the processes responsible for creating such structures.
5. A general knowledge of Earth history and the methods and techniques used to date rocks and geologic events

Learning Objectives: Each student will demonstrate the ability to:

1. Identify and interpret common rocks and minerals
2. Determine the relative ages of rocks and geologic structures using geologic dating principles
3. Identify and evaluate structural features in Earth's crust such as faults and folds
4. Demonstrate the mechanisms and processes that create earthquakes, and how the location and strength of earthquakes are determined
5. Explain and evaluate the relationship between plate tectonics and the formation of mountains, igneous bodies and earthquake zones

Learning Outcome: The student will identify, compare/contrast, synthesize and apply bodies of information of Geology regarding the area of Earth history.

Semester Lab Schedule:

Lab	Week	Lab Topic
	1	Plate Tectonics
	2	Structures
	3	Minerals
	4	Earthquakes
	5	Topographic Maps
	6	Igneous Rocks
	7	Metamorphic Rocks
	8	Sedimentary Rocks
	9	Geologic Time
	10	Ground Water
	11	Geologic Maps
	12	Topographic Maps 2