

## *Course Syllabus*

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### **Course Information**

*(course number, course title, term, any specific section title)*

GEOS 1303-001, Physical Geology, Fall 2007

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### **Professor Contact Information**

*(Professor's name, phone number, email, office location, office hours, other information)*

**W. I. Manton, 972-883-2441, [manton@utdallas.edu](mailto:manton@utdallas.edu), FO 3.620B, TTh 10:00a to 11:00a**

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### **Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions**

*(including required prior knowledge or skills)*

None

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### **Course Description**

The course presents an overview of the processes, both internal and external, that shape the surface of the earth. Specific topics addressed are: the rock-forming minerals; magmatic and volcanic processes; weathering and sedimentary materials; erosion, transport and deposition by water, wind and ice; coastlines; folding and faulting; earthquakes and the earth's interior; the sea floor; the unifying theory of plate tectonics; mountain belts, metamorphism, and the evolution of the continental crust; geological time; resources and environmental geology.

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### **Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes**

After completing this course, students will be able to:

- Explain how the discovery of spontaneous reversals of the earth's magnetic field led to plate tectonics
  - Explain how two heat sources energize terrestrial processes, one being the core and the other the sun.
  - Define the two classes of sediments: clastic and non-clastic.
  - Explain the surficial processes in which a transporting medium moves mechanically abraded material from an area of erosion to one of deposition.
  - Explain how the theory of plate tectonics predicts where volcanoes and earthquakes will occur.
  - Explain how the continental mass has grown over geologic time.
  - Describe how fossils yield a relative time scale; radiometric dates an absolute one.
  - Describe the short and long term cycles that effect global change.
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### **Required Textbooks and Materials**

Essentials of Geology 2<sup>nd</sup>. Ed.

Stephen Marshak

W. W. Norton & Company, Inc. ISBN 13:978-0-393-92815-0; ISBN 10: 393-92815-2

## Suggested Course Materials

None

## Assignments & Academic Calendar

(Topics, Reading Assignments, Due Dates, Exam Dates)

Aug. 16	<i>Introductory remarks</i>	Sep 11	Chapter 5 <i>Sedimentary rocks</i>	Oct 4	Chapter 6 <i>Metamorphic rocks</i>	Oct 30	Chapter 13 <i>Mass movements</i>
Aug. 21	Chapter 1 <i>The earth in context</i>	Sep 13	Chapter 5 <i>Sedimentary rocks</i>	Oct 9	Chapter 10 <i>Stratigraphy</i>	Nov 1	Chapter 14 <i>River flooding</i>
Aug. 23	Chapter 2 <i>Plate tectonics</i>	Sep 18	Chapter 17 <i>Desert processes</i>	Oct. 11	Chapter 10 <i>Radiometric Dating</i>	Nov 6	Chapter 15 <i>Coastal Regions</i>
Aug. 28	Chapter 3 <i>Minerals</i>	Sep 20	Chapter 18 <i>Glacial processes</i>	Oct 16	Chapter 11 <i>Earth History</i>	Nov 8	Chapter 8 <i>Earthquakes</i>
Aug. 30	Chapter 4 <i>Igneous rocks</i>	Sep 25	Chapter 9 <i>Structural geology</i>	Oct 18	Chapter 11 <i>Earth History</i>	Nov 13	Chapter 19 <i>Global Change</i>
Sept. 4	Chapter 7 <i>Volcanic processes</i>	Sep 27	Chapter 9 <i>Structural geology</i>	Oct 23	Chapter 12 <i>Natural Resources</i>	Nov 15	Chapter 19 <i>Global Change</i>
<b>Sept. 6</b>	<b>TEST 1</b> <i>Covers topics in column above</i>	<b>Oct 2</b>	<b>TEST 2</b> <i>Covers topics in column above</i>	<b>Oct 25</b>	<b>TEST 3</b> <i>Covers topics in column above</i>	<b>Nov 20</b>	<b>TEST 4</b> <i>Covers topics in column above</i>

### Other Dates

Oct 20	Field Trip Group 1	Oct 27	Field Trip Group 2	Nov 27	<b>TEST 5</b> <b>Optional, comprehensive</b>	MC 2.410	<b>2:00p</b> <i>(Yes, 2:00p)</i>
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**Testing will be done by SCANTRON. Please be sure to bring Form No. F-1712-PAR-L with you. It is a shade of purple.**

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## **Grading Policy**

*(including percentages for assignments, grade scale, etc.)*

Each test contributes equally towards your grade. You can keep track of your grades by checking the course WebCT page (link available on the UTD homepage).

The fifth test is at your discretion. If you are satisfied with the grade obtained on the first four, there is no need to take the fifth test. If you do take it, your lowest score will be dropped so that your final score will be calculated from the four tests you did best in. The fifth test will, however, be comprehensive.

The final grade is based on the following percentile divisions A+: 97.1-100; A: 93.1-97; A-: 90.1-93; B+: 87.1-90; B: 83.1-87; B-: 80.1-83; C+: 77.1-80; C: 73.1-77; C-: 70.1-73, D: 60.1-70, F<60.

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## **Course & Instructor Policies**

*(make-up exams, extra credit, late work, special assignments, class attendance, classroom citizenship, etc.)*

Tests will be taken only during the scheduled in-class period, unless the instructor agrees to reschedule an individual's test as the result of a prior agreement, or a doctor's excuse certifies the student was too ill to attend class the day of the examination. If you have health problems, or extenuating circumstances, please contact the instructor as soon as possible so arrangements can be made.

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It is expected that students will be seated by 2:30p on test days. Tests will then be distributed after which no further tests will be handed out. If you are late you will have to take the fifth test.

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## **Field Trip Policies**

### **Off-campus Instruction and Course Activities**

*Off-campus, out-of-state, and foreign instruction and activities are subject to state law and University policies and procedures regarding travel and risk-related activities. Information regarding these rules and regulations may be found at the website address [http://www.utdallas.edu/BusinessAffairs/Travel\\_Risk\\_Activities.htm](http://www.utdallas.edu/BusinessAffairs/Travel_Risk_Activities.htm). Additional information is available from the office of the school dean. Below is a description of any travel and/or risk-related activity associated with this course.*

The field trip will be a one-day event, leaving at 8am and returning between 5 and 6 pm. Various localities in southern Oklahoma will be visited. Travel will be made in a chartered bus. No hiking will be required. Stops will either be at quarries or at exposures in road cuts. A medical release form must be filled in before departure.

## Course & Instructor Policies

(make-up exams, extra credit, late work, special assignments, class attendance, classroom citizenship, etc.)

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## Technical Support

If you experience any problems with your UTD account you may send an email to: [assist@utdallas.edu](mailto:assist@utdallas.edu) or call the UTD Computer Helpdesk at 972-883-2911.

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## Student Conduct & Discipline

The University of Texas System and The University of Texas at Dallas have rules and regulations for the orderly and efficient conduct of their business. It is the responsibility of each student and each student organization to be knowledgeable about the rules and regulations which govern student conduct and activities. General information on student conduct and discipline is contained in the UTD printed publication, *A to Z Guide*, which is provided to all registered students each academic year.

The University of Texas at Dallas administers student discipline within the procedures of recognized and established due process. Procedures are defined and described in the *Rules and Regulations, Series 50000, Board of Regents, The University of Texas System*, and in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*. Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations (SU 1.602, 972-883-6391) and online at <http://www.utdallas.edu/judicialaffairs/UTDJudicialAffairs-HOPV.html>

A student at the university neither loses the rights nor escapes the responsibilities of citizenship. He or she is expected to obey federal, state, and local laws as well as the Regents' Rules, university regulations, and administrative rules. Students are subject to discipline for violating the standards of conduct whether such conduct takes place on or off campus, or whether civil or criminal penalties are also imposed for such conduct.

The faculty expects from its students a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work.

Scholastic Dishonesty, any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

Plagiarism, especially from the web, from portions of papers for other classes, and from any other source is unacceptable and will be dealt with under the university's policy on plagiarism (see general catalog for details). This course will use the resources of turnitin.com, which searches the web for possible plagiarism and is over 90% effective.

## Copyright Notice

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted materials, including music and software. Copying, displaying, reproducing, or distributing copyrighted works may infringe the copyright owner's rights and such infringement is subject to appropriate disciplinary action as well as criminal penalties provided by federal law. Usage of such material is only appropriate when that usage constitutes "fair use" under the Copyright Act. As a UT Dallas student, you are required to follow the institution's copyright policy (Policy Memorandum 84-1.3-46). For more information about the fair use exemption, see <http://www.utsystem.edu/oge/intellectualproperty/copypol2.htm>

## Email Use

The University of Texas at Dallas recognizes the value and efficiency of communication between faculty/staff and students through electronic mail. At the same time, email raises some issues concerning security and the identity of each individual in an email exchange. The university encourages all official student email correspondence be sent only to a student's U.T. Dallas email address and that faculty and staff consider email from students official only if it originates from a UTD student account. This allows the university to maintain a high degree of confidence in the identity of all individual corresponding and the security of the transmitted information. UTD furnishes each student with a free email account that is to be used in all communication with university personnel. The Department of Information Resources at U.T. Dallas provides a method for students to have their U.T. Dallas mail forwarded to other accounts.

## Withdrawal from Class

The administration of this institution has set deadlines for withdrawal of any college-level courses. These dates and times are published in that semester's course catalog. Administration procedures must be followed. It is the student's responsibility to handle withdrawal requirements from any class. In other words, I cannot drop or withdraw any student. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of "F" in a course if you choose not to attend the class once you are enrolled.

## Student Grievance Procedures

Procedures for student grievances are found in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities, of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*.

In attempting to resolve any student grievance regarding grades, evaluations, or other fulfillments of academic responsibility, it is the obligation of the student first to make a serious effort to resolve the matter with the instructor, supervisor, administrator, or committee with whom the grievance originates (hereafter called "the respondent"). Individual faculty members retain primary responsibility for assigning grades and evaluations. If the matter cannot be resolved at that level, the grievance must be submitted in writing to the respondent with a copy of the respondent's School Dean. If the matter is not resolved by the written response provided by the respondent, the student may submit a written appeal to the School Dean. If the grievance is not resolved by the School Dean's decision, the student may make a written appeal to the Dean of Graduate or Undergraduate Education, and the dean will appoint and convene an Academic Appeals Panel. The decision of the Academic Appeals Panel is final. The results of the academic appeals process will be distributed to all involved parties.

Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations.

## Incomplete Grade Policy

As per university policy, incomplete grades will be granted only for work unavoidably missed at the semester's end and only if 70% of the course work has been completed. An incomplete grade must be resolved within eight (8) weeks from the first day of the subsequent long semester. If the required work to complete the course and to remove the incomplete grade is not submitted by the specified deadline, the incomplete grade is changed automatically to a grade of **F**.

## Disability Services

The goal of Disability Services is to provide students with disabilities educational opportunities equal to those of their non-disabled peers. Disability Services is located in room 1.610 in the Student Union. Office hours are Monday and Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; and Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The contact information for the Office of Disability Services is:  
The University of Texas at Dallas, SU 22  
PO Box 830688  
Richardson, Texas 75083-0688  
(972) 883-2098 (voice or TTY)  
[disabilityservice@utdallas.edu](mailto:disabilityservice@utdallas.edu)

If you anticipate issues related to the format or requirements of this course, please meet with the Coordinator of Disability Services. The Coordinator is available to discuss ways to ensure your full participation in the course. If you determine that formal, disability-related accommodations are necessary, it is very important that you be registered with Disability Services to notify them of your eligibility for reasonable accommodations. Disability Services can then plan how best to coordinate your accommodations.

It is the student's responsibility to notify his or her professors of the need for such an accommodation. Disability Services provides students with letters to present to faculty members to verify that the student has a disability and needs accommodations. Individuals requiring special accommodation should contact the professor after class or during office hours.

## Religious Holy Days

The University of Texas at Dallas will excuse a student from class or other required activities for the travel to and observance of a religious holy day for a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property tax under Section 11.20, Tax Code, Texas Code Annotated.

The student is encouraged to notify the instructor or activity sponsor as soon as possible regarding the absence, preferably in advance of the assignment. The student, so excused, will be allowed to take the exam or complete the assignment within a reasonable time after the absence: a period equal to the length of the absence, up to a maximum of one week. A student who notifies the instructor and completes any missed exam or assignment may not be penalized for the absence. A student who fails to complete the exam or assignment within the prescribed period may receive a failing grade for that exam or assignment.

If a student or an instructor disagrees about the nature of the absence [i.e., for the purpose of observing a religious holy day] or if there is similar disagreement about whether the student has been given a reasonable time to complete any missed assignments or examinations, either the student or the instructor may request a ruling from the chief executive officer of the institution, or his or her designee. The chief executive officer or designee must take into account the legislative intent of TEC 51.911(b), and the student and instructor will abide by the decision of the chief executive officer or designee.

*These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.*

