
GEOL 1303 – Physical Geology

Fall 2023 Syllabus

Instructor

Dr. Daniel Hauptvogel
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Office: SR1 225D
Class Time: MW 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm
Location: SEC 100
Office Hours: MW 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm, or by appointment



Textbook

We will use a free, open-access textbook, [Physical Geology by Karla Panchuk](#). You can view the web pages for the book, or you can download PDF files for the chapters. There are no assigned readings; all graded work will come from topics and concepts discussed during lecture.



Grade Breakdown

A standard grading scale is used for this class (Table 1). If your final grade reaches XX.5, it will round up to the next number.

Letter	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F
Number	≥93	90-92	87-89	83-86	80-82	77-79	73-76	70-72	67-69	63-66	60-62	<60

Table 1 - Grading Scale

Online Exams: 50%

There will be four (4) non-cumulative exams during the (i.e., Exam 2 does not have material from Exam 1). The lowest exam grade will be dropped. **Exams will take place online through Canvas and will be open for a 14-hour window from 8:00 am to 10:00 pm on exam days.** Exams can be found in the “Exams” tab on our Canvas page. Exams are open-book/note and no browser lockdown software or cameras will be used. You will have 60 minutes to answer 50 questions. There are

no lectures on exam days so use our scheduled class time to take the exam. Pro Tip: lecture slides will not contain much text, so you'll need your lecture notes.

Quizzes: 20%

Six (6) online quizzes will be given throughout the semester that must be taken through Canvas in the "Quizzes" section. You will have 15 minutes to complete 10 questions. Quizzes will be open book/note, and browser lockdown software and cameras will not be used. There are no due dates for quizzes but suggested due dates are given to keep you on pace with the material we cover in class. You can turn in quizzes at any time after they are posted, but there is a hard deadline of November 29, 2023, our last day of class, for all quizzes to be completed. No quizzes will be accepted after November 29.

Assignments: 30%

There will be about ten (10) assignments throughout the semester, generally not to take longer than 20 minutes to complete. Some assignments will require you to visit the [Geoscience Learning Center](#) in Fleming 136 to observe Earth materials. Assignments are completed similarly to a quiz via Canvas. There are no due dates for assignments but suggested due dates are given to keep you on pace with the material we cover in class. You can turn in assignments at any time after they are posted, but there is a hard deadline of November 29, 2023, our last day of class, for all assignments to be completed. No assignments will be accepted after November 29.

Other Course Information

Academic Honesty

High ethical standards are critical to the integrity of any institution, and bear directly on the ultimate value of conferred degrees. All UH community members are expected to contribute to an atmosphere of the highest possible ethical standards. Maintaining such an atmosphere requires that any instances of academic dishonesty be recognized and addressed. The [UH Academic Honesty Policy](#) is designed to handle those instances with fairness to all parties involved: the students, the instructors, and the University itself. All students and faculty of the University of Houston are responsible for being familiar with this policy.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Use

You may use AI programs e.g. ChatGPT to help generate ideas and brainstorm. However, you should note that the material generated by these programs may be inaccurate, incomplete, or otherwise problematic. Additionally, AI will not be able to answer many of the questions in our assignments, quizzes, and exams. Beware that use may also stifle your own independent thinking and creativity.

Attendance/Excused Absence Policy

Attendance is not taken, but Regular class attendance, participation, and engagement in coursework are important contributors to student success. Absences may be excused as provided in the University of Houston [Undergraduate Excused Absence Policy](#) and [Graduate Excused Absence Policy](#) for reasons including: medical illness of student or close relative, death of a close family member, legal or government proceeding that a student is obligated to attend, recognized professional and educational activities where the student is presenting, and University-sponsored activity or athletic competition. Under these policies, students with excused absences will be provided with an opportunity to make up any quiz, exam or other work that contributes to the course grade or a satisfactory alternative. Please read the full policy for details regarding reasons for excused absences, the approval process, and extended absences. Additional policies address absences related to [military service, religious holy days, pregnancy and related conditions](#), and [disability](#).

Extra Credit Field Trips

All students enrolled in GEOL 1303 are eligible (but not required) to go on a fieldtrip(s) this semester and earn extra credit. There is no additional cost since this course already has a field trip fee. See Table 2 for amount of credit each trip is worth. You may attend all of the trips, but a **maximum of 5pts will be given**. These are points added straight to your final course grade. Please note, if you confirm your attendance for a Central TX or Galveston field trip and do not attend, you will lose 4 points on your final grade; you must cancel at least 24 hours before the trip. You cannot double dip on credit by attending multiple trips on the same topic or by completing the virtual versions of trips you attend in person. More information on the trips, including dates, will be provided in mid-September.

Field Trips in Person	Extra Credit Points		Virtual Field Trips & Assignments	Extra Credit Points
Central TX (all day)	4		Central TX	3
Galveston (all day)	4		Texas Coast	3
UH Rocks! Campus Tours	1		UH Rocks! Campus Tour	1
Houston Museum of Natural Science Tour	2		Mantle	1

Table 2 - Field trip extra credit points. A maximum of 5 points can be earned.

Geoscience Learning Center (GLC)

Graduate student TAs staff a learning center in Fleming 136 dedicated to helping students in all geology courses. Fall 2023 hours TBA. Please make sure you sign in and sign out when visiting the GLC.

<http://www.geosc.uh.edu/undergraduate/learning-center/index.php>

Laboratory

There is an optional 1-credit lab course (GEOL 1103 – Physical Geology Lab) that accompanies this lecture course. Students find taking the lab makes the lecture easier and they typically earn higher grades!

Late or Missed Work

Quizzes and assignments have suggested due dates, and submissions will be accepted through our last day of class on November 29. After November 29, quizzes and assignments will not be accepted. Exams must be completed on the day they are assigned, no late submissions will be accepted. Please communicate with me if you will miss an exam and have extenuating circumstances.

Mental Health and Wellness Resources

The University of Houston has a number of resources to support students' mental health and overall wellness, including [CoogsCARE](#) and the [UH Go App](#). UH [Counseling and Psychological Services \(CAPS\)](#) offers 24/7 mental health support for all students, addressing various concerns like stress, college adjustment and sadness. CAPS provides individual and couples counseling, group therapy, workshops and connections to other support services on and offcampus. For assistance visit uh.edu/caps, call 713-743-5454, or visit a [Let's Talk](#) location in-person or virtually. [Let's Talk](#) are daily, informal confidential consultations with CAPS therapists where no appointment or paperwork is needed.

The [Student Health Center](#) offers a Psychiatry Clinic for enrolled UH students. Call 713-743-5149 during clinic hours, Monday through Friday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. to schedule an appointment.

The [A.D. Bruce Religion Center](#) offers spiritual support and a variety of programs centered on well-being.

Need Support Now?

If you or someone you know is struggling or in crisis, help is available. Call CAPS crisis support 24/7 at 713-743-5454, or the National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline: call or text [988](tel:988), or chat 988lifeline.org.

Reasonable Academic Adjustments/Auxiliary Aids

The University of Houston is committed to providing an academic environment and educational programs that are accessible for its students. Any student with a disability who is experiencing barriers to learning, assessment or participation is encouraged to contact the Justin Dart, Jr. Student Accessibility Center (Dart Center) to learn more about academic accommodations and support that may be available to them. Students seeking academic accommodations will need to register with the Dart Center as soon as possible to ensure timely implementation of approved accommodations. Please contact the Dart Center by visiting the website: <https://uh.edu/accessibility/> calling (713) 743-5400, or emailing jdcenter@Central.UH.EDU.

Recording of Class

Students may not record all or part of class, livestream all or part of class, or make/distribute screen captures, without advanced written consent of the

instructor. If you have or think you may have a disability such that you need to record class-related activities, please contact the [Justin Dart, Jr. Student Accessibility Center](#). If you have an accommodation to record class-related activities, those recordings may not be shared with any other student, whether in this course or not, or with any other person or on any other platform. Classes may be recorded by the instructor. Students may use instructor's recordings for their own studying and notetaking. Instructor's recordings are not authorized to be shared with *anyone* without the prior written approval of the instructor. Failure to comply with requirements regarding recordings will result in a disciplinary referral to the Dean of Students Office and may result in disciplinary action.

Title IX/Sexual Misconduct

Per the UHS Sexual Misconduct Policy, your instructor is a "responsible employee" for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and state law and must report incidents of sexual misconduct (sexual harassment, non-consensual sexual contact, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, sexual intimidation, intimate partner violence, or stalking) about which they become aware to the Title IX office. Please know there are places on campus where you can make a report in confidence. You can find more information about resources on the Title IX website at <https://uh.edu/equal-opportunity/title-ix-sexual-misconduct/resources/>.

Syllabus Changes

Please note that the instructor may need to make modifications to the course syllabus. Notice of such changes will be announced as quickly as possible through email, Canvas, and in class.

UH Email

Please check and use your CougarNet email for communications related to this course. Faculty use the CougarNet email to respond to course-related inquiries such as grade queries or progress reports for reasons of FERPA. To access your CougarNet email, [login](#) to your Microsoft 365 account with your CougarNet credentials. Visit [University Information Technology \(UIT\)](#) for instructions on how to connect your CougarNet e-mail on a mobile device.

Undergraduate Student Success Center Workshops

A great campus resource with workshops on a variety of classroom success-related topics <http://www.uh.edu/ussc/launch/services/workshops/>

Course Schedule & Due Dates

Class Schedule

Date	Topic	OER Chapter Readings	Lecture
8/21	Understanding Science	1	1
8/23	Early Earth	2, 3.1	2
8/28	Plate Tectonics <i>*8/28 Last day to add a class*</i>	4	3
8/30	Plate Tectonics	4	3
9/4	Labor Day – No Class		
9/6	Minerals <i>*9/6 Last day to drop with no grade*</i>	5	4
9/11	Silicate Minerals	5	5
9/13	Igneous Rocks	6, 7	6
9/18	Igneous Rocks	7	6
9/20	Exam 1		1-6
9/25	Volcanoes	11	7
9/27	Volcanoes	11	7
10/2	Weathering	8	8
10/4	Sedimentary Rocks	9	9
10/9	Sedimentary Rocks	9	9
10/11	Sedimentary Environments	9	10
10/16	Exam 2		7-9
10/18	Metamorphic Rocks	10	11
10/23	Metamorphic Rocks	10	11
10/25	Deformation	13	12
10/30	Relative Dating	19	13
11/1	Absolute Dating	19	14
11/6	Earthquakes	12	15
11/8	Exam 3		11-14

Date	Topic	OER Chapter Readings	Lecture
11/13	Earthquakes	12	15
11/15	Plate Tectonics Revisited <i>*11/15 Last day to drop with grade W*</i>	4	16
11/20	Rivers and Flooding	14	17
11/22	No Class - Thanksgiving		
11/27	Rivers and Flooding	14	17
11/29	Climate Change	16	18
12/8	Exam 4 (UH final exam schedule)		15-18

Table 3 – Course Schedule

Suggested Assignment Due Dates

Assignment	Release Date	Suggested Due Date
Syllabus		8/28
Plate Tectonics	8/30	9/6
Minerals	9/11	9/18
Igneous Rocks	9/18	9/25
Volcanoes	9/27	10/4
Sedimentary Rocks	10/9	10/16
Metamorphic Rocks	10/23	10/30
Dating	11/1	11/8
Earthquakes	11/13	11/20
Flooding	11/27	11/29

Table 4 - Suggested assignment due dates. All assignments must be completed by 11/29.

Suggested Quiz Dates

Quiz #	Topics	Release Date	Suggested Due Date
Quiz 1	Early Earth, Plate Tectonics	8/30	9/6

Quiz #	Topics	Release Date	Suggested Due Date
Quiz 2	Minerals	9/11	9/18
Quiz 3	Volcanoes and Weathering	10/2	10/9
Quiz 4	Sedimentary Rocks and Environments	10/11	10/16
Quiz 5	Metamorphic Rocks and Deformation	10/25	11/1
Quiz 6	Earthquakes and Rivers and Flooding	11/27	11/29

Table 5 - Suggested quiz due dates. All quizzes must be completed by 11/29.

Important Dates

8/28 – Last day to add a class

9/6 – Last day to drop a class with no grade

11/15 – Last day to drop a class with grade W

12/2 – Last day of classes

12/5-12/13 – Final exam period