

GEOLOGY 3020, HISTORICAL GEOLOGY

Fall 2026 Course Syllabus

ENV 336 T, TH 9.30-10.50

Instructor: Dr. Harry Williams

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Canvas: GEOL 3020 Section 001. Canvas will be used to make announcements and post exam reviews and lab and exam scores. You cannot access lectures and labs in Canvas.

Web Page: www.geog.unt.edu/~williams the web page will be used to post lectures and lab material.

Office hours: T, TH 2-4 and by appointment.

Course Description:

Historical geology is the study of the evolution of landforms and life-forms through geologic time. Geologic features such as rock types and fossils are used to interpret and date past events. The first third of the course introduces the basic geologic principles underlying historical geology; the second two thirds of the course focus on the geologic evolution of the North American continent and the evolution of life on Earth.

Course Grade:

Your grade will be based on 4 exams, 8 labs, a one-day field trip and a semester project. **Good attendance** is expected of all students and will be checked periodically – students may be dropped for non-attendance after three unexcused absences. Exams will be a mix of multiple choice and written answer questions. Late penalty: 10%/day (for up to 4 days; i.e. maximum late penalty is 40%). Late penalties can be waived in event of an excused absence (e.g. illness); it is the responsibility of the student to provide official documentation (e.g. doctor's note).

Mark breakdown:

Exam 1, 2, 3, 4:	40% (10% each).
Labs:	40% (5% each)
Field trip	10%
Project:	10%

Course Text Book:

Levin, H. L., 2017. Earth Through Time, 11th edition.

Extra Credit: the Department of Geography does not allow extra credit assignments (work not specified on a course syllabus).

ADA Statement: the Department of Geography, in cooperation with the Office of Disability Accommodation, complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. Please present your written request before the 12th class day so that I can make the necessary arrangements needed.

Cheating and Plagiarism Statement: Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a "0" for that particular assignment or exam. Additionally, the incident will be reported to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities for further penalty.

According to the UNT catalog, the term "cheating" includes, but is not limited to: a. use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; b. dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; c. the acquisition, without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to a faculty or staff member of the university; d. dual submission of a paper or project, or resubmission of a paper or project to a different class without express permission from the instructor(s); or e. any other act designed to give a student an unfair advantage. The term "plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to: a. the knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment; and b. the knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials. *Students are responsible for retaining all graded materials in event of a grade dispute.

HISTORICAL GEOLOGY**H. WILLIAMS****Geology 3020 – Fall 2026**

DATE	TOPICS	TEXT READINGS
Aug. 18	Introduction	Ch. 1
20	Stratigraphic principles	Ch. 2
25	Sedimentary environments	Ch. 5
27	Lab exercise 1 – Stratigraphy and sedimentary environments.	
Sept. 1	The fossil record	Ch. 6
3	The geologic timescale	Ch. 3
8	Lab exercise 2 – Geologic maps and paleoenvironments	
10	EXAM 1	
15	Structure of the earth, orogenesis	Ch. 7
17	Precambrian geology	Ch. 8
22	Early life	Ch. 8, 9
24	Lab exercise 3 – Precambrian Life	
29	Early Paleozoic geology I	Ch. 10
Oct. 1	Lab exercise 4 - Building Bodies (video)	
6	Early Paleozoic geology II	Ch. 10
8	EXAM II	
13	Lab exercise 5 - Early Paleozoic life	Ch. 12
15	Late Paleozoic geology I	Ch. 11
20	Late Paleozoic geology II	Ch. 11
22	Lab exercise 6 - Late Paleozoic life	Ch. 12
27	Early Mesozoic geology	Ch. 13
29	Late Mesozoic geology	Ch. 13
Nov. 3	Mesozoic life	Ch. 14
5	EXAM III	
10	Lab exercise 7 - Mesozoic life	Ch. 14
12	Cenozoic geology	Ch. 15
14	FIELD TRIP SATURDAY NOV. 14 ALL DAY.	
17	Cenozoic life	Ch. 16
19	Lab exercise 8 - Cenozoic life	
24-29	THANKSGIVING – NO CLASSES	
Dec. 1	Human origins	Ch. 17
3	Review, Q&A session, (optional). Projects due today.	
?	FINAL EXAM ?	