

Classroom: ENV 110

Instructor: Dr. Yuting Li

Email: [yuting.li@unt.edu](mailto:yuting.li@unt.edu)

Office: ENV 310R

Virtual office hours: T TH 10 am – 10:30 am (zoom)  
or by appointment

TA: Kirsten Hana

Email: [KirstenHana@my.unt.edu](mailto:KirstenHana@my.unt.edu)

Virtual office hour: M W 9:30am–10am (zoom)  
or by appointment

Access to virtual office hours is through the zoom link on Canvas course page during the above times.

### Recommended Textbook (not required)

*Essentials of Geology* by Stephen Marshak (7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> edition)

ebook available through <https://wwnorton.com/books/9780393882728>

Supplementary open source books:

<https://opentextbc.ca/physicalgeology2ed/>

<https://oercommons.org/courses/an-introduction-to-geology-free-textbook-for-college-level-introductory-geology-courses-2>

<https://www.oercommons.org/courses/geology-4/view>

### Broad Course Goals

The Earth is diverse and dynamic, featuring volcanoes, earthquakes, tsunamis, landslides, floods, and so on. As part of biosphere, we humans want to understand what is going on in our natural world and which aspects directly affect us. Understanding past events helps us comprehend what has happened and begin to predict future events. Accordingly, this course examines the processes and materials composing Earth's physical environment, for example, its landscapes and interior. We will explore topics such as minerals and rocks, plate tectonics, surface processes such as rivers and waves, natural hazards and disasters, fossils, energy resources, and much more. To do so, we will learn some underlying principles of the natural world, from small things like the very building blocks of matter (atoms), to large things, like the cause and effect of regional forces that build mountains (e.g., the Himalayas) and make new oceans (e.g., the Red Sea). These processes are active today on Earth, and give rise to earthquakes, volcanoes, and landslides, all of which obviously affect humans. The coursework, assignments, and examinations emphasize developing a basic understanding of geologic processes and concepts.

### Format, Structure, and Expectations

This course has a lecture part and a separate lab part. This syllabus is only for the lecture part. All email correspondence for the lecture will be sent to your UNT university email account via Canvas. You are expected to read your @my.unt.edu email on a frequent basis. We will make daily use of the UNT Canvas system, especially for course announcements, ancillary materials and web links, and grading. Lecture slides will be uploaded onto Canvas after each class. Office hour is held virtually through zoom. All the discussion forums, homework, and exams are online. If you are unfamiliar with using Canvas, there is an Introductory Tutorial in the "Getting Started" module of the course Canvas site.

Two heads are usually better than one in solving problems and alternative perspectives offered by your classmates may take your ideas in new directions. In order to promote more interactions beyond classroom, discussion forums will be held online on *Canvas*. The discussion is to link what you are

learning in class to real-life events that have been reported in the press. *I encourage you to be open, courteous, and respectful, and need everyone to contribute.*

### Email Policy

- When you email, **please make sure to use “GEOL 1610 Section 002” in subject line** and sign message with your full name. This will help me tremendously in locating and responding to your emails quickly.

### Grading

The lecture is worth 70% of your course final grade and the in-person lab is worth 30% of your grade.

**LABS: You must be registered for an in-person GEOL 1610 lab** - the lab is worth 30% of your final grade. Labs give you hands-on experience on a variety of geology topics e.g. identifying rocks, using maps, calculating flood recurrence. The Lab and Lecture parts are in separate Canvas sites and taught by different instructors. Teaching, testing, and grading of the lab work is the responsibility of your lab TA (Teaching Assistant). Please refer all lab questions to your lab TA.

### Lecture Grade breakdown

In-class attendance	10 pts each (10*10=100 pts in total)
Homework on <i>Canvas</i>	20 pts each (20*8=160 pts in total)
Online discussion on <i>Canvas</i>	40 pts each (40*4=160 pts in total)
3 “in-class” Exams on <i>Canvas</i>	100 pts each (3*100=300 pts in total)
1 Final Exam on <i>Canvas</i>	100 pts

Your Lecture Grade is based on 820 pts (100+160+160+300+100)

No make ups! (If you have a conflict, contact Dr. Li as early as possible)

This course consists of four modules, each requiring a monitored *Canvas* discussion, two homework, and a timed online exam.

#### Class Attendance:

- Starting from Week 2, twelve class attendance will be taken randomly throughout the semester.
- 10 pts each, 10 out of the 12 count. Therefore, you may miss 2 classes before it starts to affect the grade.
- No make-up attendance.
- Emergencies that result in your absence should be emailed with appropriate documentation as far as in advance as possible.

#### Online homework:

- Assigned on *Canvas*. 20 pts each, 8–10 questions in each homework, 8 homework in total.
- 8–10 questions in each homework, multiple format (multiple choice, matching, True/False). Two attempts will be given to answer each homework question to ensure full understanding of the material. Only best score is recorded.
- Each week’s homework will be posted on Monday at 12:00 AM CDT and will be due on Friday of that week at 11:59 PM CDT.

- Late homework will NOT be accepted.

### Online Discussion:

- Assigned on *Canvas*. 40 pts each, 4 discussions in total.
- During discussion week, you will need to post one original discussion post and at least two response posts to your classmates, all of which need to be completed to get full credit. Detailed grading rubric is posted on “Introduction” *Canvas* page.
- Each discussion forum opens at 12:00 AM CDT on the Monday of that week and **has two deadlines**. Please make your initial discussion post (must be at least 150 words in length) by Thursdays at 11:59 PM, and at least two response posts (at least 5 sentences in each) to your classmates by Fridays at 11:59 PM in that week.
- AI should not be used to assist in writing your discussion posts, posts detected as AI-generated will get 0 pts.
- Dr. Li and TA monitor and attend discussions. We all know that Internet forums can be harsh environments with a lot of people feeling they can be rude because they are hidden behind a screen. Responses of this nature are not acceptable. Responses should be informative, polite, and well intentioned when you communicate with your fellow classmates. Remember, grading is based on the overall quality of your initial question post and two responses – read them through and check spelling and grammar before posting.
- Late posts will NOT be accepted.

### 3 In-class Exams (100 pts each)

- Assigned on *Canvas*. Not comprehensive (only test on materials covered in each module).
- Each contains ~50 questions (multiple choice, matching, True/False).
- Timed, you will have 80 minutes to complete each exam. Once you start an exam, the countdown clock starts, so be sure to complete it within that 80 minutes of when you first started. If you are kicked offline, you will need to log back in ASAP. Please plan ahead and secure a quiet space with a **STRONG AND RELIABLE INTERNET CONNECTION**.
- Only one attempt is allowed for each exam.
- Each in-class exam will be available at 12:00 AM CDT on the scheduled class day and is due at 11:59 PM CDT on the same day. You have to complete the exam during this 24-hour window.
- There will be review sessions. Review slides will be posted.
- Even though exams are taken online through *Canvas*, all exams are to be taken closed book/closed note and on an individual (not group) basis.
- Late exams will NOT be accepted.

You must take the exams by yourself. Do not share information about them with anyone else. Please be aware, *Canvas* has extensive cheating and plagiarism detection capability. Cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty are completely unacceptable and have dire consequences (see section on academic dishonesty below).

### 1 Final Exam (100 pts)

- The final exam is **not** comprehensive and will cover the material of the last module after Exam 3.
- Assigned on *Canvas*, 1 attempt allowed.
- Each contains ~50 questions (multiple choice, matching, True/False).
- Timed, only open for 2 hours on the scheduled day. Final exam schedule can be found here: <https://registrar.unt.edu/exams/final-exam-schedule/spring>
- There will be review sessions. Review slides will be posted.

- Even though exams are taken online through Canvas, all exams are to be taken closed book/closed note and on an individual (not group) basis.

## Grade Posting

All grades will be posted on Canvas. *You have 7 days after a grade has been posted to dispute an entry.* After the 7-day period, the grade stands as entered. Do not wait until the end of the semester to check your grades.

One reminder here: DO NOT rely on Canvas Grade calculation to check your current grade status. Only after we grade the last assignment, you will know what the final grade for the course is. All the ungraded assignments are automatically treated as zero. For instance, if your CANVAS report you 90%, the 90 is not the accumulated points you earned. That's how Canvas is set up and we do not have a solution yet.

## Letter Grade

The grading schema for our course is:

- A: 89.5% - 100%
- B: 79.5% - 89.5%
- C: 69.5% - 79.5%
- D: 59.5% - 69.5%
- F: < 59.5%

## Make-up Work

You are responsible for managing your time and keeping up with the course. Attendance, online homework, and online discussion **cannot** be made up. Make-up work for exams will only be allowed **before** the exam date. Students must provide *advance* notice **at least before 1 week** of the exam date **and documentation** for an absence to be considered excused. Exams CANNOT be made up for non-emergency, unexcused absences, or absences that occur without prior notification to the instructor.

Moreover, it is your responsibility to make sure you have a reliable Internet connection when completing an online exam. Late exams or assignments will not be accepted due to Internet issues at your location. They will also not be accepted just because you “forgot” to complete the exam or assignment.

## SPOT:

The Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT) is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT.

This short survey will be made available to you on April 14, providing you a chance to submit course evaluation. Students will receive an email from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via IASystem Notification" (no-reply@iasystem.org) with the survey link. Please look for the email in your UNT email inbox. Once you complete the survey, you will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the SPOT website (<http://spot.unt.edu/>) or email [spot@unt.edu](mailto:spot@unt.edu).

I consider the SPOT to be an important part of your participation in this class. To encourage all students to do evaluations, I have made completing the course evaluation as an extra-credit. Every student who completes a SPOT and submit the screen shot of the completion confirmation through Canvas link will receive **1 actual extra point** toward your overall final grade. Just doing the evaluation without submitting your screenshot does not count. Please read the instructions in the Canvas link carefully.

Other than SPOT, no extra credit assignment will be accepted.

### **Attendance/Absences**

Students are expected to be present for every meeting of this class. Only the instructor can excuse a student from a course requirement or responsibility. FYI, there are other 1610 sections designed to be fully online available for you to choose if you prefer a remote delivery method.

When conflicts or absences can be anticipated, such as for many University sponsored activities and religious observations, the student should inform the instructor of the situation as far in advance as possible, and provide the regular documentation. For unanticipated or emergency absences when advance notification to an instructor is not possible, the student should contact the instructor as soon as possible by email.

### **Diversity Statement**

I want to create a safe and positive learning environment that supports a diversity of thoughts, perspectives and experiences, and honors your identities (race, gender, class, sexuality, religion, ability, etc.). To help accomplish this:

- Let me know if you have a preferred name and/or set of pronouns.
- Don't hesitate to talk with me If you feel like your performance in the class is being impacted by your experiences outside of class. I can be a resource for you or direct you to needed resources.
- I (like many people) am still in the process of learning about diverse perspectives and identities. If something was said in class (by anyone) that made you feel uncomfortable, please talk to me about it.

### **Accessibility and Accommodations:**

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. If you seek accommodation, first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify your eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to me to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in this course. You may request accommodations at any time; however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at <http://www.unt.edu/oda>. You may also contact them by phone at 940-565-4323.

**Class Disruptions** are defined as activities that distract the instructor or other students from the course content. Such activities include talking or whispering, cell phones ringing, tardiness or whispering about another tardy student, noisily preparing to leave the class prior to the end of the period, etc. As a college student, you are considered a responsible adult. Your enrollment indicates acceptance of the University of North Texas college code of student conduct. Disruptive students will be asked to leave the class. Repeat offenders may be withdrawn and reported to the Dean of Students Office (DOS).

### **Cellular Telephones/Text Messaging/Pagers**

Please turn all cellular telephones and pagers to silent during class time – this includes text messaging. If your work situation requires that you be on call, please notify the instructor prior to class.

## Use of Laptops in the Classroom

You are only permitted to use a laptop during class to take notes or in-class quizzes, as long as you do not disturb your neighbors. Laptops may not be used during class time to answer email, browse the web, listen to music, or any other activity not related to class. If you are using your laptop for one of these unauthorized activities, you will be asked to leave class.

## Academic Dishonesty:

Academic integrity is one of the highest values that UNT holds. *Cheating* in this class is absolutely not tolerated. If you are caught you will be given a Zero for that assignment and other measures including reporting to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities may be taken at my discretion.

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. Altering a returned test and claiming a grader or scanning machine made an error is also considered cheating.

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.

## Course Timeline and Due Dates:

\* *subject to change by the instructor as needed. Any updates will be posted on the course Canvas site.*

Dates	Assignments and due dates
<b>Week 1</b> 1.12 Course Intro + Prelude: what is geology (P2-13) 1.14 Ch. 1 The Earth System and Interior	<b>Homework 1</b> (also includes some questions about syllabus) ➤ Due 1.16 11:59 PM
<b>Week 2</b> 1.19 MLK Holiday, no class 1.21 Ch. 3 Minerals	
<b>Week 3</b> 1.26 Ch. 4 Magma and Igneous Rocks 1.28 CH. 6, 7 Sedimentary and Metamorphic Rocks	<b>Homework 2</b> ➤ Due 1.30 11:59 PM
<b>Week 4</b> 2.2 Review for Exam 1 <b><u>2.4 Exam 1 (online)</u></b>	<b>Canvas Discussion 1</b> ➤ Initial post due 2.5 11:59 PM ➤ 2 responses due 2.6 11:59 PM
<b>Week 5</b> 2.9 Ch. 2 The way the Earth works: Plate Tectonics 2.11 Ch. 2 The way the Earth works: Plate Tectonics	<b>Homework 3</b> ➤ Due 2.13 11:59 PM

<p><b>Week 6</b>  2.16 Ch. 8 Earthquakes and Structural Geology  2.18 Ch. 8 Earthquake energy and size</p>	<p><b>Canvas Discussion 2</b>  ➤ Initial post due 2.19 11:59 PM  ➤ 2 responses due 2.20 11:59 PM</p>
<p><b>Week 7</b>  2.23 Ch. 8 Earthquake hazards and prediction  2.25 Review for Exam 2</p>	<p><b>Homework 4</b>  ➤ Due 2.27 11:59 PM</p>
<p><b>Week 8</b>  <b><u>3.2 Exam 2 (online)</u></b>  3.4 Ch. 14 Rivers</p>	
<p><b>Week 9</b>  Spring Break</p>	
<p><b>Week 10</b>  3.16 Ch. 15 Oceans  3.18 Ch. 15 Ocean Circulation</p>	<p><b>Homework 5</b>  ➤ Due 3.20 11:59 PM</p>
<p><b>Week 11</b>  3.23 Ch. 15 Coasts  3.25 El Niño</p>	<p><b>Homework 6</b>  ➤ Due 3.27 11:59 PM</p>
<p><b>Week 12</b>  3.30 Review for Exam 3  <b><u>4.1 Exam 3 (online)</u></b></p>	<p><b>Canvas Discussion 3</b>  ➤ Initial post due 4.2 11:59 PM  ➤ 2 responses due 4.3 11:59 PM</p>
<p><b>Week 13</b>  4.6 Ch. 10 Geologic Time  4.8 Ch. 10 Geologic Time</p>	<p><b>Homework 7</b>  ➤ Due 4.10 11:59 PM</p>
<p><b>Week 14</b>  4.13 Ch. 5 Volcanic eruption and products  4.15 Ch. 5 Volcanoes and geologic settings</p>	<p><b>Canvas Discussion 4</b>  ➤ Initial post due 4.16 11:59 PM  ➤ 2 responses due 4.17 11:59 PM</p>
<p><b>Week 15</b>  4.20 Ch. 5 Volcanic hazards and protection  4.22 Review for Final Exam</p>	<p><b>Homework 8</b>  ➤ Due 4.24 11:59 PM</p>
<p><b>Week 16</b>  4.27 Course reflection survey (online)  4.29 Pre-finals Day, No class</p>	<p><b>Course Topic Reflection Survey</b>  ➤ Due 4.30 11:59 PM</p> <p>SPOT Extra Credit Submission  ➤ Due 4.30 11:59 PM</p>
<p><b>Week 17</b>  <b><u>5.4 Monday 12:30pm–2:30pm FINAL Exam (online)</u></b></p>	