

# GEL 50L: Physical Geology Laboratory

# Syllabus

## Instructor

Professor Magali Billen, EPS 2129.

Laboratory sections are taught by teaching assistants (TAs) who are graduate students conducting research on a range of topics in Earth and Planetary Sciences.

## Section TAs

1. Chris Holt    [cdholt@ucdavis.edu](mailto:cdholt@ucdavis.edu)    Tue/Thu 4:10 - 7:00 pm  
EPS 1348    Office hours: Tue 3-4 pm, Thu 12-1 pm.
2. Luis Erick Aguirre Palafox    [palafox@ucdavis.edu](mailto:palafox@ucdavis.edu)    Mon/Wed 4:10-7:00 pm  
EPS TBD    Office hours: TBD
3. Nora Soto Contreras    [ndsoto@ucdavis.edu](mailto:ndsoto@ucdavis.edu)    Mon/Wed 1:10-4:00 pm  
EPS TBD    Office hours: TBD

## **Course goals**

- Learn the essential techniques used by geologists
- Learn how to apply these techniques to understand geologic history and solve geologic problems
- Have fun looking at some cool rocks and maps!

## **Logistics**

Each meeting, you will be doing a different lab activity. To prepare for the lab:

1. Do the assigned reading before coming to lab! This usually goes pretty fast, and it will make the labs much easier and help you get them done quickly.
2. You should also print out the lab activity ahead of time, and read through it before coming to lab.

Lab activities are due at the end of the lab session, unless otherwise indicated. Late labs and assignments will be accepted with a 25% penalty per day late, beginning at the day and time when the lab is due. (This means that turning in a lab more than 24 hours late is a 50%

deduction, and more than 48 hours late is a 75% deduction from the total possible score). Late labs may be turned in to the GEL 50L drop box on the ground floor near the elevators. Email your TA to let them know when you submit late work.

## Text

- Laboratory Manual in Physical Geology (11th edition) by Busch and Tasa.

This book is required for all students enrolled in the lab, since many questions in the labs draw from maps and figures in the text. Exercises in older editions may be different from the current one. If you use an older book, you'll need to check your version against a classmate before each lab activity to make sure you're doing the correct reading and answering the right questions in the labs.

## Other Required Course Materials

- Calculator
- Ruler

## Field trip

There will be a one-day field trip to Point Reyes in early February, offered on Saturday February 1st and Saturday February 8th. Everyone must sign up for one of these two days (see Field trip Sign-up Assignment for more information). **Participation in the 1-day field trip is mandatory for everyone enrolled in the lab and is worth two lab exercises.** It's also a lot of fun and is the highlight of the class for most students! Stay tuned for more details.

## Important Links:

- [Academic Code of Conduct](#)
- [UC Student Resources - FAQ](#)
- [Aggie Compass](#) (student food/finance/housing needs)
- [Office of Student Support and Judicial Affairs](#)