

**About the Topics Covered and the Text:**

This course is an introduction to Earth Science. Rather than attempting an ‘all-inclusive’ survey of earth science topics, we will cover selected topics to explore connections to our experiences with, and understanding of, the earth. We will highlight key aspects of those topics to better understand the “structure,” the “plumbing,” and the “climate control” of our home: planet Earth. Many texts are available for introductory earth science courses: some focus on the physical aspects of the whole earth, while others focus on environmental issues and aspects.

I have chosen a text that is a suitable reference for both this course and introductory environmental geology (e.g., ESCI 123): this text covers important topics for this class, in a way that should help your learning process; but it also includes much more information that we will *not* cover in this class. Alternative texts, including older editions, are available through on-line sources at lower cost. You may, if desired, use an older edition of this text, OR use another appropriate text as a resource. However, you are responsible for ensuring that you read topical material in order to appropriately participate in this class. Having a reference text available for this class is necessary: check with me if you are unsure as to whether a particular text is appropriate for this class.

**About the Lectures:** [refer also to page titled “*Tips to Succeed in this Course*”]

Students are **expected to attend all scheduled classes**. Some topics covered in class may *not* be similarly covered in your text. You are responsible for all material presented and all information available in class (including schedule changes). Occasional in-class exercises will be collected as part of the course grade; there will be no make-ups for these opportunities. Class sessions may emphasize a specific part of a topic, while asking that you take individual responsibility for other material through text or other readings.

**About the Labs:** [refer also to separate lab handouts for more information]

Much of your learning in this class will occur as a result of hands-on explorations and activities in the lab. Note that the lab portion of your grade is heavily dependent upon participation and completion of lab assignments. Attendance at all lab sessions is critical to your success in this class. ***There are no make-up labs.***

**About the Grading:**

There will be two semester exams, worth 50 pts each; each exam will cover different material. The final exam is worth 100 pts: roughly half will cover the last set of topics; the other half will draw on your cumulative course knowledge, connecting key concepts from the entire course. ***There will be NO make-up exams.***

\*\*\*\* ***Please note*** the schedule for, and university policies governing, final exams (as printed in the schedule book).

No exceptions other than those allowed by this policy will be made.

Homework will be assigned more or less on a weekly basis. Occasional in-class exercises will be collected as part of the class contribution element. In-class exercises will be collected same day; homework assignments are due at the *beginning* of the class period on the due date unless otherwise specified. ***No late assignments will be accepted.*** Refer to Homework Criteria for more information about required format and grading of homework assignments.

The final course grade will be calculated as follows:

<b>Lecture</b>	50%, as follows:	
	scheduled exams (2 @ 50 pts)	100 pts
	Final Exam	100 pts
	homework assignments	200 pts (10 @ 20 pts)
<b>Lab</b>	50%, as follows:	
	lab assignments	280 pts (14 @ 20 pts)
	lab quizzes (2 @ 50 pts)	100 pts
	lab participation	20 pts
<b>Class contributions</b>		20 pts (2.5% of total) possible
	treated as “extra credit”:	a high contribution score can improve your final grade

All course requirements must be completed to pass the course. The grading scale is as follows:

A 100-90%; B 89-80%; C 79-70%; D 69-60%; F 59% and lower.

***The final date to drop the course, as per University policy, is Friday, 2 April.***