

GEL 1 The Earth

Fall Quarter 2020 Class Syllabus

Professor: Dr. Mark DeBlois (mcdeblois@ucdavis.edu)
Pronouns: he/him/his
Lecture times: MWF 9:00 - 9:50 am
Lecture ZOOM Link: <https://ucdavis.zoom.us/j/98433314878>

Office hour & ZOOM Link:

Wednesdays --> 10:00 - 11:00 am: <https://ucdavis.zoom.us/j/91491589025>
Thursdays --> 9:00 - 10:00 am: <https://ucdavis.zoom.us/j/99867534536>
Or by appointment

GEL1 qualifies for GE credit in Science & Engineering topical breadth as well as GE credit in Scientific Literacy. (The Writing Experience credit for GEL1 has been eliminated. There are no writing assignments in the course and thus no GE writing credit.)

Textbook (optional):

Physical Geology Today, 1st edition. Nance and Murphy

Goals of the course:

- To understand how the Earth works as a habitable planet.
- To connect the geosciences with their societal relevance: natural disasters (e.g. earthquakes, volcanoes, hurricanes), economic resources (e.g. water, fossil fuels, minerals), and our relationship with the environment (e.g. ancient and modern climate change).

Lectures:

- The textbook readings will supplement the lecture material; however, the exams will only test you on the material we covered in class.
- This is a synchronous lecture course, which means that lectures will **NOT** be recorded. You are highly encouraged to attend each live ZOOM lecture and take notes. Lecture slides will be available as PDFs on CANVAS (in the FILES section).
- The **course schedule** below lists the lectures for the course.
- All exams and Aloha Quizzes (see below) are administered through the QUIZZES section of CANVAS. The quiz/exam will only be available during the period specified by the instructor and you will only have the specified amount of time to finish. If you encounter interruptions during your quiz/exam such as loss of internet connection, it is your responsibility to inform the instructor by email as soon as possible in order to receive reasonable accommodation.

Discussion Sections:

- Discussion begins on the week of October 5 - 9.

- Each discussion section meets once a week **online**. The TA for your section will run the discussion.
- Weekly discussion materials are available on CANVAS in the FILES section. A tentative schedule of discussion topics is found in the **course schedule** below.
- The discussion activities are worth **25%** of the overall course grade

ZOOM etiquette:

While in class, you are expected to be respectful of others. You are expected to minimize unnecessary noise or discussions not related to the course. That said, I highly encourage you to participate in class.

Email etiquette:

You are encouraged to come to my ZOOM office hours (links above) or schedule an appointment to discuss any questions pertaining to the course and lecture material. Write "GEL1" in the beginning of the subject line so that I can identify and address your email in a timely manner. Do not expect me to reply to emails after 5 pm or anytime on weekends.

Grading policy:

Final course grade is based on five quizzes and two exams (midterm and final). You will **not** be allowed to take a quiz or exam outside the scheduled exam period without prior authorization by the instructor, a documented excuse, or unforeseen emergency such as loss of internet connection.

Grading:

Discussion Section Assignment Grade		25%
Midterm Exam1	(Friday, October 23):	25%
Midterm Exam2	(Friday, November 20):	25%
Final Exam	(Thursday, December 17, 1-3 pm):	25%

Extra Credit:

Aloha Friday Quiz - There will be a short extra credit quiz on CANVAS due **before** class on Fridays. The quiz will focus on recent lectures but may include anything we covered previously. These quizzes are meant to give you feedback on your understanding of the main topics of the week.

Final course grades based on the following scale:

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

Academic Integrity:

Acts of academic dishonesty will be referred to the Office of Student Support & Judicial Affairs. You are responsible for understanding and following the UC Davis Policy on Student Conduct and Discipline. For more information refer to this website:

<http://sja.ucdavis.edu/academic-integrity.html>

Students with Disabilities:

Any student who needs extra accommodation based on the impact of a disability is encouraged to contact the Student Disability Center at (530) 752-3184 so that appropriate accommodation could be implemented.

Sexual Harassment Policy:

For more information on recognizing and reporting inappropriate behavior, please visit the university websites about the Sexual Harassment Education Program on campus such as the following:

<https://hdapp.ucdavis.edu>

<https://sexualviolence.ucdavis.edu>

Course Schedule: (subject to change)

9/30 - 10/2:

L01 Introduction

L02 Formation and fate of the Sun and other stars

Aloha Quiz 1 complete by Friday before class

10/5 - 10/9:

L03 Origin of the Solar System and the Earth (+ Earth's layers)

Aloha Quiz 2 complete by Friday before class

Discussion section week 1

10/12 - 10/16:

L04 Dating rocks and the Geologic Timescale

Aloha Quiz 3 complete by Friday before class

Discussion section week 2

10/19 - 10/23:

L05 Continental drift and plate tectonics

Aloha Quiz 4 complete by Friday before class

Discussion section week 3

Midterm1 Exam (L01-L04) - Friday, 10/23 from 9:00 - 9:50 am

10/26 - 10/30:

L06 Mapping the seafloor

Aloha Quiz 5 complete by Friday before class

Discussion section week 4

11/2 - 11/6:

L07 Minerals and Rocks

Aloha Quiz 6 complete by Friday before class

Discussion section week 5

11/9 - 11/13:
L08 Volcanoes
Aloha Quiz 7 complete by Friday before class

11/11 Veteran's Day Holiday - NO CLASS

11/16 - 11/20:
L09 Earthquakes
Aloha Quiz 8 complete by Friday before class
Discussion section week 6

Midterm2 Exam (L05-L08) - Friday, 11/20 from 9:00 - 9:50 am

11/23 - 11/25:
L10 Earth's resources
Aloha Quiz 9 complete by Monday before class

11/27 Thanksgiving Holiday - NO CLASS

11/30 - 12/4:
L11 Weather and precipitation
Aloha Quiz 10 complete by Friday before class
Discussion section week 7

12/7 - 12/11:
L12 Glaciers, ice ages, and climate change
Aloha Quiz 11 complete by Friday before class
Discussion section week 8

Final Exam (comprehensive with focus on L09-L12) - Thursday, 12/17 from 1:00 - 3:00 pm