GEL 17 Earthquakes and Other Earth Hazards
Winter Quarter 2021 Class Syllabus

Professor: Mark DeBlois, PhD (mcdeblois@ucdavis.edu)
Pronouns: he/him/his
Lecture Hours: MW 2:10 - 3:00 pm
Lecture ZOOM Link: https://ucdavis.zoom.us/j/91696310749
Office hour & ZOOM Link:
  Wednesdays --> 01:00 - 02:00 pm: https://ucdavis.zoom.us/j/92327950048
  Thursdays --> 10:00 - 11:00 am: https://ucdavis.zoom.us/j/91253458496
  Or by appointment

Textbook (optional):

Course overview:
- This course is about natural hazards with a focus on earthquakes, which is most likely to affect residents of the Bay Area and Southern California. Other hazards that we will cover include but are not limited to tsunamis, landslides, wildfires, volcanic eruptions, and asteroid impacts. We will discuss the societal impacts and prediction, preparation, and mitigation methods. GE credit: SE, SL
- The textbook is optional. The exams will only cover the material we covered in class.
- ZOOM lectures will NOT be recorded due to privacy, copyright, and logistic issues. 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 tab).
- You are encouraged to come to my ZOOM office hours (links above) or schedule an appointment to discuss anything that pertains to the course and lecture material.

ZOOM etiquette:
I highly encourage you to participate in class. 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.

Email etiquette:
Write “GEL17” 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 three exams (2 midterms and 1 final). You will not be allowed to take an exam outside the scheduled exam period without prior authorization by the instructor, a documented excuse, or unforeseen emergency.
- All exams and Aloha Quizzes (see below) will be administered through the QUIZZES section of CANVAS. They 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.

**Grading:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exam</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm 1 Exam</td>
<td>(Wednesday, February 3)</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm 2 Exam</td>
<td>(Wednesday, February 24)</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>(Wednesday, March 17, 8:00 - 10:00 am)</td>
<td>40%</td>
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**Extra Credit:**

Aloha Quiz - There will be a short extra credit quiz on CANVAS due before class on Mondays. 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 are based on the following scale:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>&gt;93%</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-86%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-76%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>63-66%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60-62%</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>&lt;60%</td>
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**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](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://hdapp.ucdavis.edu)
[https://sexualviolence.ucdavis.edu](https://sexualviolence.ucdavis.edu)

**Course Schedule (subject to change):**
M 1/04: L01 Introduction and course overview
W 1/06: L02 Plate tectonics and Earth hazards
M 1/11: L02 Plate tectonics and Earth hazards (continued)
Aloha Quiz 1 complete before class
W 1/13: L03 Earthquake Mechanics
M 1/18: **No Class - Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday**
W 1/20: L03 Earthquake Mechanics (continued)
Aloha Quiz 2 complete before class
M 1/25: L04 Measuring Earthquakes
Aloha Quiz 3 complete before class
W 1/27: L05 Locating Earthquakes
M 2/01: L06 Earthquake Hazards
Aloha Quiz 4 complete before class
W 2/03: **Midterm1 Exam** (L01-L04) - during class time
M 2/08: L07 Tsunamis
Aloha Quiz 5 complete before class
W 2/10: L08 Earthquake Forecasting
M 2/15: **No Class - Presidents' Day Holiday**
W 2/17: L09 Earthquake Risk
Aloha Quiz 6 complete before class
M 2/22: L10 Volcanoes
Aloha Quiz 7 complete before class
W 2/24: **Midterm2 Exam** (L05-L09) - during class time
M 3/01: L11 Volcanoes
Aloha Quiz 8 complete before class
W 3/03: L11 Volcanic Hazards
M 3/08: L12 Floods and Human Interaction with Rivers
Aloha Quiz 9 complete before class
W 3/10: L12 Floods and Human Interaction with Rivers (continued)

**Final Exam** (comprehensive with focus on L10-L12)
- Wednesday, 3/17, 8-10 am
- Aloha Quiz 10 complete by **Wednesday** at 11:59 pm