GEL 1 The Earth
Winter Quarter 2021 Class Syllabus

Professor: Dr. Mark DeBlois (mcdeblois@ucdavis.edu)
Pronouns: he/him/his
Lecture times: MWF 12:10 - 1:00 pm Pacific Time
Discussion times: Depends on section (see below)
Lecture ZOOM Link: https://ucdavis.zoom.us/j/99181256851

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

Discussion section TA:
A01 & A08
   TA: Paige Cary (pacary@ucdavis.edu)
A02 & A07
   TA: Erick Aguirre-Palafox (palafox@ucdavis.edu)
A03 & A04
   TA: Trey Brink (tjbrink@ucdavis.edu)
A05 & 06
   TA: Katherine Hewitt (kchewitt@ucdavis.edu)

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 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 section.
- The **course schedule** below lists the lectures for the course.
- 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.

**Discussion Sections:**
- Discussion begins on the second week of class (see course schedule below).
- Each discussion section meets once a week online. The TA for your section will run the discussion.
- Weekly discussion materials and assignments are available on CANVAS in the FILES section.
- Attendance and discussion assignments are worth **15%** of the overall course grade

**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 “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 your three lecture exams and overall discussion assignment grade. 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.
- All exams and Aloha Quizzes (see below) are 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:**
- **Discussion Section Assignment Grade** (see above)  **15%**
- **Lecture Exams**  **85%**
  - **Midterm 1 Exam** (Friday, February 5)
  - **Midterm 2 Exam** (Friday, February 26)
  - **Final Exam** (Thursday, March 18 from 3:30 - 5:30 pm)

**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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<th>Grade</th>
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<tr>
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<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92%</td>
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<td>B+</td>
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<td>B</td>
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<td>B-</td>
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<td>C+</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)

Week 1: 1/04 - 1/08
- L01 Introduction
- L02 Formation and fate of the Sun

Week 2: 1/11 - 1/15:
- L03 Formation of the Solar System, the Earth, and the Moon
- Aloha Quiz 1 complete by Monday before class
- **Discussion section begins, meets weekly**

Week 3: 1/18 - 1/25
- **No Monday class - Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday**
- **No discussion section this week**
- L04 Sedimentary Rocks
- Aloha Quiz 2 complete by Monday before class

Week 4: 1/25 - 1/29:
- L05 Dating Rocks and the Geologic Timescale
Aloha Quiz 3 complete by Monday before class
Week 5: 2/02 - 2/05:
   L06 Continental drift and plate tectonics
   Aloha Quiz 4 complete by Monday before class

**Midterm1 Exam** (L01-L05) - Friday, 2/05 during class time

Week 6: 2/08 - 2/12:
   L07 Minerals
   L08 Igneous Rocks
   Aloha Quiz 5 complete by Monday before class

Week 7: 2/15 - 2/19:
   **No Monday class - Presidents’ Day Holiday**
   **No discussion section this week**
   L08 Igneous Rocks
   L09 Volcanoes
   Aloha Quiz 6 complete by Monday before class

Week 8: 2/22 - 2/26:
   L10 Metamorphic Rocks
   Aloha Quiz 7 complete by Monday before class

**Midterm2 Exam** (L06-L09) - Friday, 2/26 during class time

Week 9: 3/01 - 3/05:
   L11 Earthquakes
   Aloha Quiz 8 complete by Monday before class
   **Discussion section last weekly meeting**

Week 10: 3/08 - 3/12:
   L12 Glaciers, ice ages, and climate change
   Aloha Quiz 9 complete by Monday before class

**Final Exam** (comprehensive with focus on L10-L12)
- Thursday, 3/18 from 3:30 - 5:30 pm
- Aloha Quiz 10 complete by Thursday at 11:59 pm