Syllabus for GEL50: Introduction to Physical Geology

Land Acknowledgement: We should take a moment to acknowledge the land on which we gather for this course. For thousands of years, this land has been the home of Patwin people, including the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation today. The Patwin people have remained committed to the stewardship of this land over many centuries. It has been cherished and protected, as elders have instructed the young through generations. We are honored and grateful to be working here today on their traditional lands.
Approved by Yocha Dehe Tribal Council (May 14, 2019)

Professor: Eric Cowgill (he/his/him; pronounced "coe-gill").
Office hour: Mondays, 10-11 in EPS 3121 (or by appt.)
Contact: talk to me after class, in office hour, or via Canvas email. For email I reserve 2 weekdays to reply.

Teaching Assistant: Nikhil Boora
Office hour: Thursdays, 2-3 PM, location to be determined.
Contact: via Canvas email

Lectures: MWF 9:00 - 9:50 AM; ART 217.
Schedule: see attached
Important Dates:
>   *Midterm #1*: Friday Oct. 15 (in class)
>   *Midterm #2*: Friday Nov. 5 (in class)
>   *Midterm #3*: Wednesday Nov. 24 (in class)
>   *Final exam*: Tuesday Dec.07 at 1:00 PM (in ART 217)

Course Description: The Earth, its materials, its internal and external processes, its development through time by seafloor spreading and global plate tectonics. Prerequisites: high school physics and chemistry.

Required Textbook: *Understanding Earth*, 8th ed. 2020 by Grotzinger and Jordan. See attached *schedule* for assigned chapters, the *assigned reading* for specific sections to read, and the *study guide* for how to use the text.

Workload expectation is standard for UC Davis: ~3hrs/unit/wk = 9 hrs/wk. Lecture is 2.5 hr/wk, so plan on 6-7 hr/wk outside lecture.

Grades: See detailed descriptions of each category below.
>   50%   Exams (3 total, lowest 1 will be dropped, so 25% each)
>   20%   Homework (10 total, lowest 2 will be dropped)
>   5%   In class questions & feedback (weekly)
>   25%   Final exam

Grading Scale: 100-90% = A; 89.99-80.0% = B; 79.99-70.0% = C; 69.99-60.0% = D; 59.99-0% = F, with + and - at the top and bottom 3.33% of each grade. Scores on the cusp of a letter grade boundary will be bumped up.

Exams (75%) will be closed book/note/web and taken in person during class time and the regularly scheduled final. Expect to see graphs and figures from the book/lectures and questions from the homework. Exams are mainly multiple choice but include some short answer, drawings, or worked problems. Bring a Scantron 2000 for each exam.

Homework (20%) is intended to help you prepare for the exams and should be submitted via Canvas by the deadlines on the schedule.

In-class questions & feedback (5%): I expect everyone to ask at least one question in class during the quarter that is related to the assigned reading for the day or something we covered in the prior week. To facilitate this, at least once per week I expect you to bring to class up to 3 such questions written out on a piece of paper. During class, add to that paper 1 thing that you learned from lecture and then turn it in at the end of class.

Late policy: Deadlines are firm because I have built flexibility into the course by dropping the 1 lowest midterm exam and the 2 lowest homeworks. Late homework will be penalized by 25% per 24 hours. *No makeup/replacement midterm exams or homework >72 hours late. Makeup final only for university-excused situations.*

Health and safety:
- [Monitor your symptoms](#) and stay home if you are feeling sick.
- Take the [Daily Symptom Survey](#) to access campus facilities.
- Be fully vaccinated or hold an [approved exception for religious or medical reasons](#).
- [Wear face coverings inside](#) & on mass transit (+outside & in crowds if unvaccinated).
- Test every 2 weeks (or less) if vaccinated. Students will face disciplinary action if they are out-of-date with testing requirements.
- Eat only in designated areas and never in classrooms. Students may remove their masks very briefly to drink while in class.
- If you can't attend lecture due to Covid, I will make lecture recordings available to you.
- If I can't attend lecture due to Covid, then either one of my colleagues will present the lecture for me, or I will deliver it remotely.

Code of Conduct: I expect each of us to treat people the way they want to be treated and to contribute to building a supportive and collaborative environment where everyone feels safe. Any type of harassment or discrimination by, or of, any member of the course community will not be tolerated. Expected behavior includes (but is not limited to):
- Treating all participants with respect and consideration
- Communicating openly with respect for others
- Critiquing ideas rather than individuals
- Avoiding personal attacks directed toward others
- Complying with UC Davis' Principles of Community
- Abiding by principles of academic integrity and ethical professional conduct.

I expect that no one will discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, pregnancy, physical or mental disability, age, medical condition, ancestry, marital status, citizenship, sexual orientation, service in the uniformed services, or status as a Vietnam-era veteran or disabled veteran.

Responsibilities for the students, instructors, and all members of the community are:

Students:	Instructors:	Community:
- Attend course sessions. - Come to class prepared. - Submit complete work on time. - Participate in course discussions. - Ask questions - Ask for help	- Attend course sessions. - Generate prompt and constructive feedback. - Foster an environment where students feel safe asking questions, and for help.	- Be respectful of everyone in the course. - Be willing to work with, and learn from, everyone in the course. - Listen - Show patience and compassion

This Code of Conduct applies to all activities related to the class (in-person / virtual).

Plagiarism is a violation of the UCD student responsibilities and conduct standards, as well as the UC Davis Code of Academic Conduct. Plagiarism consists of presenting as your own work (ideas, writing, illustrations, etc.) created by another. You are committing plagiarism if you copy the work of another person and turn it in as your own, *even if you have the permission of that person*.

The UC Davis Code of Academic Conduct exists to support high standards of behavior and to ensure fair evaluation of student learning. The code is available at: https://supportjudicialaffairs.sf.ucdavis.edu/code-academic-conduct. Students who violate the Code of Academic Conduct are subject to disciplinary sanctions that include Censure, Probation, Suspension, or Dismissal from the University of California. See the UC Davis Policy on Student Conduct and Discipline section 102.01.1for details.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. I am committed to educational equity in the academic setting, and in serving a diverse student body. I encourage all students who are interested in learning more about the Student Disability Center (SDC) to contact them directly at sdc.ucdavis.edu, sdc@ucdavis.edu or 530-752-3184. If you are a student who requires academic accommodations, please submit your SDC Letter of Accommodation to me as soon as possible, ideally within the first two weeks of this course.

RESOURCES:

Are you new to UC Davis and need help navigating the university? Do you need help coping with the pandemic? Are you in need of food or housing? Do you need help finding academic assistance for this class or others?

There is information about learning remotely and links to information on health & well-being at this *Student Resources* page [https://keepteaching.ucdavis.edu/student-resources]. ASUCD has excellent resources to address basic needs. The ASUCD Mental Health Initiative [https://www.facebook.com/UCDMentalHealth/] actively works to provide students with mental health resources.

Many students at UC Davis need food and/or housing. If you are skipping or stretching meals, concerned about spending money on food and/or having difficulties accessing

food, visit the Aggie Compass Basic Needs Center [aggiecompass.ucdavis.edu] located on the first floor of the MU, next to the UC Davis Market. Aggie Compass can provide immediate food and access to additional resources. The ASUCD Pantry [https://thepantry.ucdavis.edu/] (located at 154 MU) provides free food for students.

You can find answers to a number of questions frequently asked by your fellow UC Davis students here: https://ebeler.faculty.ucdavis.edu/resources/faq-student-resources/

Additional information is available at:

UC Davis Student Academic Success Center [http://success.ucdavis.edu/]

UC Davis Student Resources [https://www.ucdavis.edu/students/resources/]

You can also contact your major department or the academic advising office in your college to get connected to a student services advisor for assistance. To get started, see the College of Letters and Science [https://lettersandscience.ucdavis.edu/advising]