

GEL 1 The Earth Class Syllabus

Professor: Dr. Mark DeBlois (mcdeblois@ucdavis.edu)

Pronouns: he/him/his

Lecture: Giedt 1001; MWF 12:10 - 1:00 pm

Discussion times: Depends on section (check CANVAS)

Lecture ZOOM Link (until Jan. 28): <https://ucdavis.zoom.us/j/94737156495>

Office hour: EPHSCI 2242 (on your right as you exit the elevator)

ZOOM link: <https://ucdavis.zoom.us/j/96849528675>

MW 1:10 - 2:00 pm

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.)

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).

Textbook (optional):

Physical Geology Today, 1st edition. Nance and Murphy

Lectures:

- The textbook readings will supplement the lecture material; however, the exams will only test you on the material we covered in class. You are highly encouraged to attend each 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.

Discussion Sections:

- Discussion begins on the second week of class (see course schedule below).
- Each discussion section meets once a week. The TA for your section will run the discussion and explain class logistics.
- Attendance and discussion assignments are worth 20% of the overall course grade

Email etiquette:

Write "GEL1" in the beginning of the subject line so that I can identify and address your email in a timely manner.

Grading policy:

- **Final course grade is based on three lecture exams and your overall discussion 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. Contact me as soon as possible if you miss a quiz or exam.

Grading:

Discussion Section Assignment Grade (see above)		20%
Midterm1 Exam	(Friday, February 4)	25%
Midterm2 Exam	(Friday, February 25)	25%
Final Exam	(Wednesday, 3/16, 10:30 - 12:30)	30%

Extra Credit:

Aloha Bonus Quiz - There will be a short extra credit quiz available every week on CANVAS under QUIZZES. You will have 5 min to answer 4 multiple choice questions. The window to take the quiz is from Friday at 2 pm until Monday at 12:10 pm. 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:

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)

Week 1: 1/03 - 1/07

L01 Introduction; L02 Formation and fate of the Sun

Aloha Quiz 1 on Friday

Week 2: 1/10 - 1/14:

L03 Formation of the Solar System, the Earth, and the Moon

Aloha Quiz 2 on Friday

Discussion section begins, meets weekly

Week 3: 1/17 - 1/21

No Monday class - Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday

No discussion section this week

L04 Sedimentary Rocks

Aloha Quiz 3 on Friday

Week 4: 1/24 - 1/28:

L05 Dating Rocks and the Geologic Timescale

Aloha Quiz 4 on Friday

Week 5: 1/31 - 2/04:

L06 Continental drift and plate tectonics

Midterm1 Exam (L01-L04) - Friday, 2/04

Week 6: 2/07 - 2/11:

L07 Minerals; L08 Igneous Rocks

Aloha Quiz 5 on Monday; Aloha Quiz 6 on Friday

Week 7: 2/14 - 2/18:

L08 Igneous Rocks; L09 Volcanoes

Aloha Quiz 7 on Friday

Week 8: 2/21 - 2/25:

No Monday class - Presidents' Day Holiday

No discussion section this week

L10 Metamorphic Rocks

Midterm2 Exam (L05-L08) - Friday, 2/25

Week 9: 2/28 - 3/04:

L11 Earthquakes

Aloha Quiz 8 on Monday; Aloha Quiz 9 on Friday

Week 10: 3/07 - 3/11:

L12 Glaciers, ice ages, and climate change

Aloha Quiz 10 on Friday

Discussion section last meeting

Final Exam (comprehensive with focus on L09-L12)

- Wednesday, 3/16 from 10:30 am - 12:30 pm