

## GEOS-1040-944 “Earth & Society” SYLLABUS – Spring 2021 Remote Instruction



DEPARTMENT of  
GEOSCIENCES

College of Arts & Sciences

EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY



**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Ingrid Luffman

**E-MAIL:** [luffman@etsu.edu](mailto:luffman@etsu.edu) (Emails will be reviewed daily M-F, expect a response within 24 hours, please include GEOS1040 in the subject line of your emails)

**LECTURES:** MW 9:45-11:05 AM via zoom at

<https://etsu.zoom.us/j/92225527829?pwd=bEUxaVNzU3UyUldsQ2xrb3M4ZE53QT09>  
(Passcode 193806)

**OFFICE HOURS:** by appointment at <https://etsu.zoom.us/j/5230206939>

### **WHAT IS GEOSCIENCE?**

Geoscience brings together several branches of the natural sciences to provide students with an overview of man's physical environment and the processes that shape it. This course examines the impact of the physical environment upon people and the impact of people's activities upon their physical environment.

### **TEXT: (Required, but FREE!)**

An Introduction to Geology, by Chris Johnson, Matthew D. Affolter, Paul Inkenbrandt, and Cam Mosher (2017), Salt Lake Community College, Creative Commons <http://opengeology.org/textbook/>

This text is an Open Educational Resource, which you access online through a browser or your mobile device. It provides a comprehensive introduction to Geology and contains both written and graphic text material, intra-text links to other internal material (which may aid in understanding relationships between topics and concepts), intra-text links to the appendices and glossary for tables and definitions of words, and extra-text links to videos and web material (to clarify and augment topics and concepts).



DeHaven, Seth, 55/70 National Park, Utah

### **An Introduction to Geology**

Written by

Chris Johnson, Matthew D. Affolter, Paul Inkenbrandt, Cam Mosher

Salt Lake Community College – 2017

**OBJECTIVES:** After successful completion of the class, students should be able to:

- Evaluate a scenario to determine how it relates to the scientific method.
- Predict the locations of earthquakes, ocean trenches, mountains and volcanoes, directions of relative plate motion, and the age of the seafloor using the theory of plate tectonics.
- Predict the rock forming processes and/or the type of rocks associated with various plate tectonic settings.
- Apply concepts of numerical time to calculate rock ages.
- Synthesize the rock cycle with relative time principles to draw cross sections based on rock descriptions.
- Identify landforms and landscapes and the processes by which they were created, including the work of streams, wind, glaciers, and oceans on landscapes
- Apply concepts related to ocean circulation, currents and tides to shoreline development.
- Contribute to a discussion on current events related to Geoscience.

**NOTE TO STUDENTS ON REMOTE CLASS FORMAT:**

This is a synchronous online course. We will meet according to the course schedule (9:45-11:05 AM MW) using zoom. There will be no meetings or exams given “in person”. The course is composed of 5 units, which will cover 3 chapters each. Due dates for chapter quizzes and exams are set based on the study of one unit per 2 or 3 weeks during the semester.

I plan to meet with you at our regular class time via Zoom using the link for this class on d2l. Class will generally follow the same structure: short lectures and group work using breakout rooms in Zoom. On Wednesdays, I will answer student questions about the current material and you will be able to test your comprehension with zoom polls. Questions submitted to the D2L discussion board **before 4PM on Tuesdays** will make it to my question list for the week and I’ll attempt to answer all of them during Wednesday’s class.

We are all adjusting, and so I ask for your grace and compassion as I try out new ways to promote learning during the semester. Some of my ideas will probably work really well. Others will fail miserably. I will learn from them all. Likewise, I will treat you with grace and compassion as you handle new instructional methods, remote learning, possible need to quarantine, childcare, etc. Know that kids on laps are just fine. We will briefly pause class activities for pets that appear on camera so they can be introduced and welcomed to the class.

I ask that you communicate with me early if something happens that you think will disrupt your class attendance or coursework. My ultimate goal is to see each of you succeed and, with luck, learn to love my chosen field of science called Geoscience.

**OTHER CLASS POLICIES:**

1. Online and remote courses are demanding, because they require all of us to be disciplined and able to study independently. It is usually the disciplined student who obtains an ‘A’, while students who leave readings, quizzes, and exams to the last minute will struggle greatly.
2. With remote instruction, as expected, all quizzes and exams will be taken on your own time in your personal study space (dorm, house, etc.). You are free to use the textbook, your notes, and other academic sources for reference, but you may not use your friend, or your geologist-auntie/uncle. **ALL WORK MUST BE YOUR OWN!**
3. Quizzes can be completed up to three times, but will NOT be reopened after the unit due date; make sure to take the quizzes early. I recommend planning to complete one or two chapters (and the chapter quiz) each week, to bank a little time for when life happens.
4. There is no opportunity to make up a missed exam, but I can work with students to reschedule/change deadlines on a case-by-case basis BEFORE the due date. So, what can you do if you miss an exam deadline? I offer a **comprehensive, optional, and no-risk final exam that you may substitute for any unit exam**. In other words, if you miss a unit exam, you may elect to take the final exam and replace the zero grade for the unit exam with the final exam grade. However, if you are happy with your unit exam grades, then you may choose not to take the final. If you find you are likely to miss more than one exam due to circumstances beyond your control, please be in touch.
5. The Department of Geosciences has developed a GEOS Covid-19 policy that is in line with ETSU policies, but also addresses items specific to the Geosciences. Please review it here <https://www.etsu.edu/cas/geosciences/documents/geos-coronavirus-policy.pdf>.

**GRADING:**

**15 Quizzes:** three online quizzes will be made available to you at the start of each unit, covering the chapters assigned for the unit. Quizzes are open book and consist of multiple choice, true/false or map/diagram interpretation questions. **Your lowest quiz grade will be dropped.** *Generally, quizzes are due by 11:59 PM on Fridays at the end of each unit. To give you maximum flexibility, you may choose to take them at any time up to the due date.*

**6 Exams:** 50 multiple choice, true/false, and map/diagram interpretation questions. Many exam questions ask you to apply what you have learned from course material to hypothetical maps or situations, so be sure you understand the processes discussed in the book and lectures rather than just memorizing vocabulary words. You have 5 unit exams plus an optional final exam. **Your lowest exam grade will be dropped.** For most students, this will probably be the optional final exam.

*Note: there is no risk in attempting the final, so I encourage all of you to take all 6 exams. Unit exams must be completed by 11:59 PM of the Monday after the unit quiz deadline.*

**Assignments:** The Recognizing Plagiarism Quiz and the Introduction (discussion post) are to be completed during the **first week of class.** They will be used for required attendance reporting.

**Class participation:** You will earn class participation credit for participating in polls, using the chat for course related questions, reporting for your group after breakout room discussions or other equivalent activities (determined by the professor and Graduate Assistant). You may earn 5 points per class meeting up to a maximum of 100 points. Since we have ~30 class meetings over the course of the semester, it should be easy to earn full points by participating in discussions and polls, etc., even if life gets in the way or you fall ill and miss a few classes (let me know if that is the case, please).

**See the schedule in the following pages for due dates. The tables below show the grade breakdown.**

Assignments	# of Assignments * Points	Possible points	% of Final Grade
Exams	5 * 100	500	67%
Quizzes	14 * 10	140	19%
Plagiarism Quiz and Course Introduction	2 * 5	10	1%
Class Participation	5 pts per class	Maximum of 100	13%
<b>Total</b>		<b>750</b>	<b>100%</b>

<b>Minimum Points</b>	697	675	652	622	600	577	547	525	502	450	<450
<b>Percent grade</b>	93-100	90-93	87-90	83-87	80-83	77-80	73-77	70-73	67-70	60-67	0-60
<b>Letter Grade</b>	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	F

**COURSE OUTLINE and IMPORTANT DUE DATES:**

**Student Introduction and Understanding Plagiarism Quiz due by 11:59PM, Friday, Jan 22**

(see final page of syllabus for instructions)

**UNIT ONE**

Chapter 01 - Understanding Science

Chapter 02 - Plate Tectonics

Chapter 03 - Minerals

**Chapter Quizzes due by 11:59 PM, Friday, Feb 12**

**EXAM #1 – due by 11:59 PM, Monday, Feb 15**

**UNIT TWO**

Chapter 04 - Igneous Processes and Volcanoes

Chapter 05 - Weathering, Erosion, and Sedimentary Rocks

Chapter 06 - Metamorphic Rocks

**Chapter Quizzes due by 11:59 PM, Friday, March 5**

**EXAM #2 - by 11:59 PM, Monday, March 8**

**UNIT THREE**

Chapter 07 - Geologic Time

Chapter 08 - Earth History

Chapter 09 - Crustal Deformation and Earthquakes

**Chapter Quizzes due by 11:59 PM, Friday, March 19 \*\* note that this unit is only 2 weeks long!**

**EXAM #3 - by 11:59 PM, Monday, March 22**

**UNIT FOUR**

Chapter 10 - Mass Wasting

Chapter 11 - Water

Chapter 12 - Coastlines

**Chapter Quizzes due by 11:59 PM, Friday, April 9**

**EXAM #4 - by 11:59 PM, Monday, April 12**

**UNIT FIVE**

Chapter 13 - Deserts

Chapter 14 - Glaciers

Chapter 15 - Global Climate Change

**Chapter Quizzes due by 11:59 PM, Friday, April 30**

**EXAM #5 - by 11:59 PM, Monday, May 3**

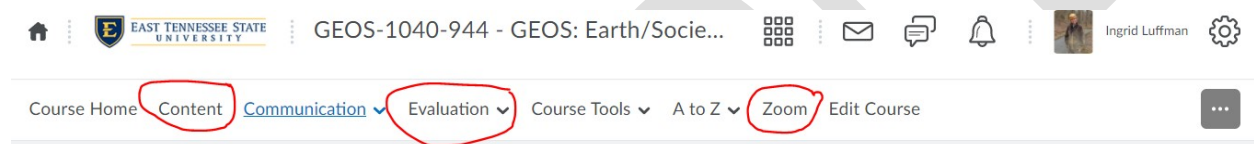
**OPTIONAL FINAL EXAM – by 11:59 PM, Wednesday, May 5**

**COURSE DOCUMENTS:**

Materials for the course may be found at <http://opengeology.org> and on the course D2L page under the 'Contents' tab. For example, Power Point Slides for each chapter will be available online. Even though this is an online course, students seem to appreciate these slides as visual study aids. Please check the D2L site frequently for important announcements in the 'Class News' section of the class home page as that is how I will communicate with you much of the time.

**REMOTE INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. Access D2L at <https://elearn.etsu.edu/>
2. Type in User name and Password on the log in page. You should now be looking at your D2L "home page". In the "My ETSU Courses" box.
3. Double-click on: GEOS-1040 - GEOS: Earth/Society Lec
4. Now you have navigated to this course's "home page"; you may now read the class news or choose from the available options on the "Navigation Bar" just below the ETSU Banner. You will probably spend most of your time in the Content and Evaluation menus, but also check out the Zoom menu which you will use to access our course Zoom Room (see circled menu options below). Every scheduled class meeting has an associated zoom link. Use it each class day to enter the zoom meeting.



**ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:**

All work must be your own. Online quizzes and exams are open book, but they must be of your own work. If you copy work from another person, or another person helps you answer questions, and this is discovered, it will result in a report of academic dishonesty being filed with the university. If you are not aware, D2L is much like "Big Brother" and collects all kinds of data.

**AMERICANS WITH DISABILITES ACT:**

It is the policy of ETSU to accommodate students with disabilities, pursuant to federal law, state law and the University's commitment to equal educational access. Any student with a disability who needs accommodations, for example arrangement for examinations or seating placement, should inform the instructor at the beginning of the course. Faculty accommodation forms are provided to students through Disability Services office (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor of Nell Dossett), telephone 439-8346 or use the following link <https://www.etsu.edu/students/ds/>

**THINGS TO REMEMBER:**

- The instructor reserves the right to refuse late work.
- The instructor reserves the right to rearrange the schedule in a timely manner, and notification of any, and all changes will be made via D2L Course News and email.
- Do not ask that I consider changing your final grade, unless you find a discrepancy between the grade you received and the grades in D2L.
- One last reminder – Failing to plan is planning to fail – **DO NOT GET BEHIND!**

**YOUR FIRST ASSIGNMENTS:** (your attendance report is based on completion of items 3 & 4 below)

**Due by 11:59PM, Friday, January 22**

1. Read the Syllabus (this document) thoroughly!
2. Bookmark the open textbook webpage: <http://opengeology.org/textbook/>
3. Next, read about plagiarism and how to avoid it, then take the plagiarism quiz on D2L. Read over these pages from the University of Southern Mississippi Library about Understanding Plagiarism ([CLICK ON THIS LINK](#)) or go to ([http://lib.usm.edu/plagiarism\\_tutorial/](http://lib.usm.edu/plagiarism_tutorial/))

**Step 1:** Read through the two introductory pages ("What is Plagiarism" and "Cite Your Sources") from the University of Southern Mississippi libraries site. Click next to advance from page to page. When you have finished reading, click next to advance to Quiz 1. Take this interactive practice quiz - you'll receive immediate feedback.

**Step 2:** Click next to advance to "How to Avoid Plagiarism: Paraphrasing and Summarizing". When you have finished learning this material, click next to advance to Quiz 2. Take this interactive practice quiz - you'll receive immediate feedback. If you want, you may advance to "Test Your Knowledge" and take the University of Southern Mississippi's practice quiz. You will receive immediate feedback by clicking on "Results Explanation" after you submit your results. Note that this is the final practice quiz on the USM site.

**Step 3:** After Step 1 and Step 2 are completed as described above, you are ready to take the **real quiz** on the GEOS1040 D2L page. Take the GEOS1040 Understanding Plagiarism Quiz located on the "Assessments" page of our D2L page. The quizzes you completed previously on the USM site are only practice quizzes and are not counted for this assignment. You need to take the real quiz in D2L to get a grade, which **is the only plagiarism quiz that is scored in the gradebook!**

4. To give you practice using the discussion board, and to get to know each other, you will create a discussion post introducing yourself to me and to the rest of the class. Please check out the discussions in D2L for the Introduction thread (under Evaluation>Discussions>Introduce yourself) and follow the instructions.

Please note: If you don't complete these exercises, I have no record that you are actively participating in the class, which impacts attendance reporting (and possibly YOUR financial aid). Completing these exercises also help me know who you are and will get you familiar with the assessments and dropbox features on D2L as most submissions will be made using these features.