

# Introduction to the Hydrologic Cycle

## Today's Agenda:

- Syllabus
  - Class Expectations
- Class overview and definitions
- Hydrologic Cycle

**Professor:** Dr. James Heiss

**Office:** Olney Hall 102C

**Email:** james\_heiss@uml.edu

**Class meetings:** MWF noon-12:50pm

**Office hours:** I will be available to answer questions  
*during scheduled office hours:*

M 1-2pm, F 9:30-10:30am, or my appointment

Email: james\_heiss@uml.edu - **start subject with “GEOL3140S19”**

## **Overview**

The objective of this course is to provide the fundamentals of the role of groundwater in the water cycle. Students will be provided with real world skills needed to work in the field of groundwater hydrology and enroll in advanced groundwater courses.

## **Topics:**

Surface water hydrology

Water budgets

Principles of groundwater flow

Groundwater mapping

Aquifers

Groundwater wells

Groundwater modeling

Groundwater chemistry

Solute transport

Unsaturated flow

Groundwater-surface water interactions

Coastal hydrogeology

## **Learning Outcomes**

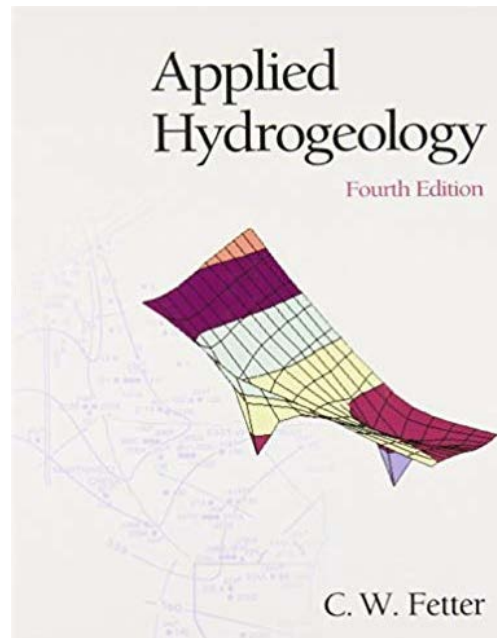
After successful completion of this course you will be able to:

- 1) Explain and demonstrate proficiency of major concepts/skills of GIS, spatial data, attribute data, data structures, coordinate systems, data projection, spatial analysis, vector and raster datasets, metadata, and several analytical GIS tools
- 2) Navigate within the ArcGIS software environment and perform introductory-level analytical skills such as joining data, creating buffers, digitizing, georeferencing, and conducting geospatial queries, performing raster and terrain analysis
- 3) Distinguish between spatial and attribute data
- 4) Differentiate vector and raster data and how the data type affects storage, display, and analysis
- 5) Collect, process, and analyze geospatial data
- 6) Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of GIS for spatial analysis

## Textbook

A textbook is not required but will be very helpful when completing problem sets, studying, and having a resource in the future. The two de facto texts are:

- *Applied Hydrogeology*, by C.W. Fetter, Prentice Hall, Inc., Fourth Edition, 2001 (industry standard)
- *Groundwater*, by R.A. Freeze and J.A. Cherry, Prentice Hall, Inc, 1979 (Prior to Fetter, this was the go-to book. It is still super relevant and it is now free! <http://hydrogeologistswithoutborders.org/wordpress/1979-english/>)



## **Learning outcomes**

- Understand the distribution and movement of water through components of the hydrological cycle on various scales
- Understand the various hydrogeologic properties of aquifers
- interpret measurements of hydraulic head and generate water table maps and hydrogeologic cross-sections
- Use the principles of groundwater flow, including Darcy's Law, to solve groundwater flow problems
- Measure aquifer properties through well testing
- Measure/acquire and analyze hydrogeological data
- Understand the basic chemical processes that control groundwater chemistry and water quality
- Understand the strengths and weaknesses associated with groundwater modeling
- Identify, formulate, and solve introductory groundwater hydrology problems

## **Course Requirements**

### *Problem sets*

Problem Sets are intended to demonstrate or reinforce concepts or skills learned in class or during field trips. In some cases we will go over the assignments in class on the due date. For this reason completed assignments are due at the beginning of the class period on the due date. In-class assignments fall under the Problem Set category. Any student not present in class who does not turn in a Problem Set on the due date without contacting me beforehand will receive a zero. Problem Sets will not be accepted by email.

### *Exams*

This course includes two exams and one final exam. The final exam will be heavily weighted toward material in the last 1/3 of the semester, but will draw on material from the first 2/3 of the semester. Attendance is mandatory for all exams. Any discussion about missing an exam must occur prior to the exam.

### *Group Aquifer Project*

This 2-3-student group project requires independent literature research on a world aquifer system, a short presentation, and a short paper.

## **Expectations**

- All plots and diagrams should have appropriate labels (with units) on all axes and a title or caption clearly describing what is plotted. All values should have units unless the value is unitless. All work should be shown on assignments and exams.
- Each student is responsible for completing their own work. You are encouraged to collaborate with and help one another and to use the resources available to you, including lecture material, the textbook, outside sources (internet, academic papers, other texts). *Write names of collaborators on the top of each Problem Set.* Your work should *not* be identical to work turned in by others.
- Please bring a pencil, pen, ruler, and calculator to each class.



# Evaluation

## Grading

Problem Sets	30%
Aquifer project	5%
Exam 1	17.5%
Exam 2	17.5%
Final Exam	25%
Class participation	5%
Total:	100%

\*Grades are rounded to the nearest tenth.

Percentage	Letter Grade
>92	A
90 – 92	A-
88 – 89	B+
83 – 87	B
80 – 82	B-
78 - 79	C+
73 – 77	C
70 - 72	C-
68 – 69	D+
60 – 67	D
<60	F

# Additional expectations

- Familiarity with (be comfortable applying) Math
  - Dimensional analysis
    - e.g. I drove @ 72 mph for 15 hours with two one-hour long stops. How many km did I travel?

- Scientific notation

$$300 = 3 \times 10^2 = 3e2$$

$$3.243 * 1.0 \times 10^3 =$$

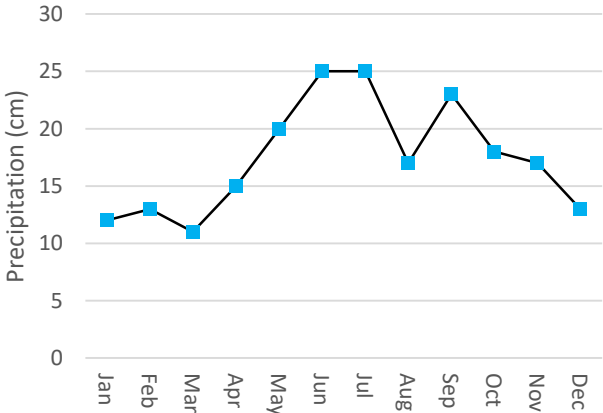
# Additional expectations

- Familiarity with (be comfortable using) Excel
  - Excel
    - Formulas, fill down, absolute reference (\$)
    - Plots
      - Type: scatter vs line
      - Connector: lines vs dots vs curves (never use curves, they imply fake data!)
      - Labels and titles (label your axes!)
      - Captions (if you're including it in a document, caption it!)

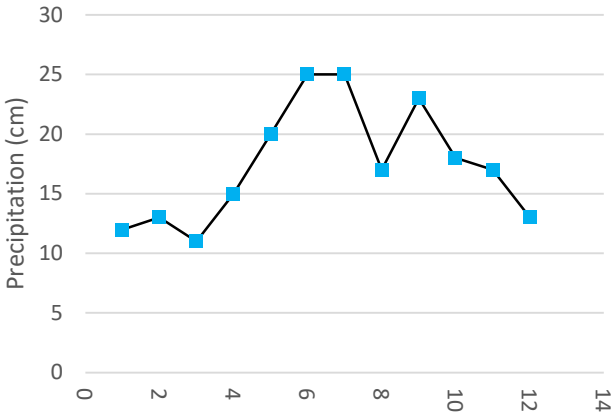
	mean temp	
	precip (cm)	(f)
Jan	12	22
Feb	13	25
Mar	11	34
Apr	15	50
May	20	52
Jun	25	63
Jul	25	72
Aug	17	76
Sep	23	X
Oct	18	57
Nov	17	50
Dec	13	38

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Monthly Precipitation (line)

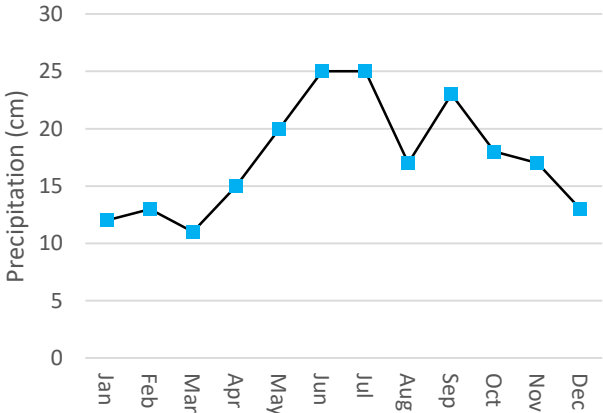


Monthly Precipitation (scatter)

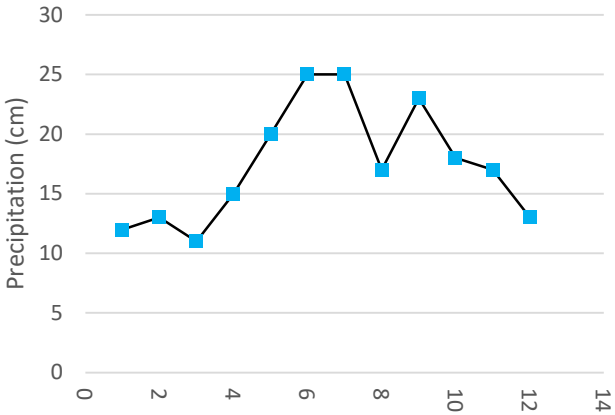


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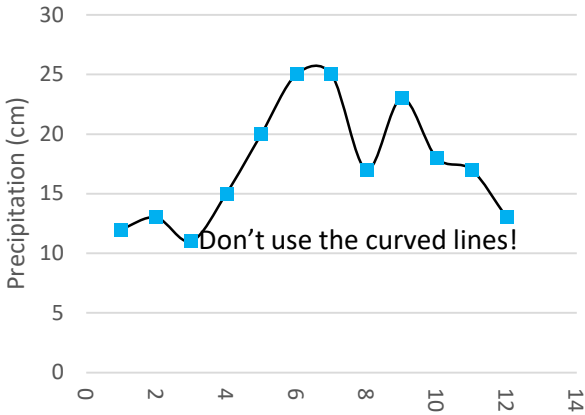
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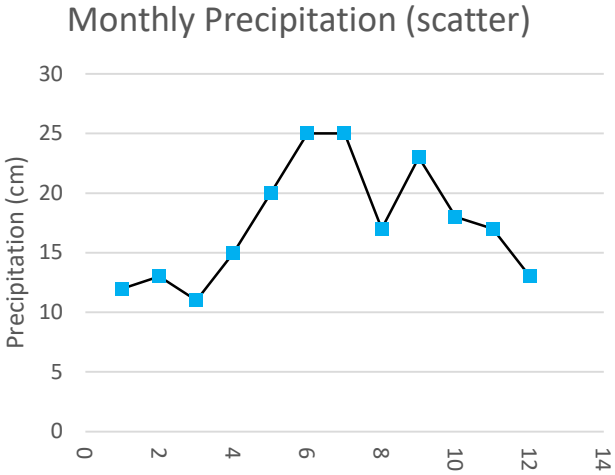
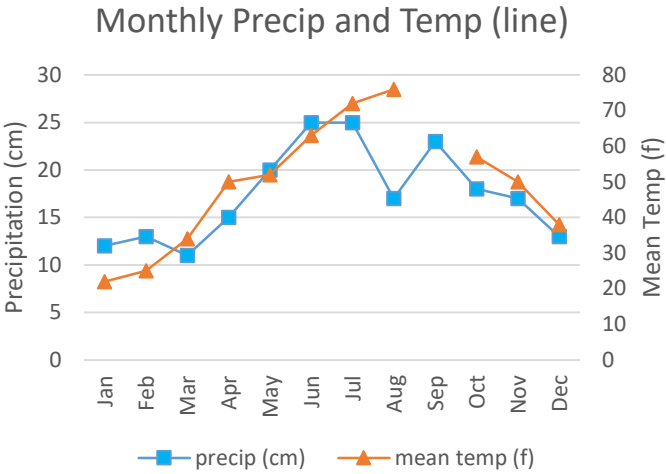
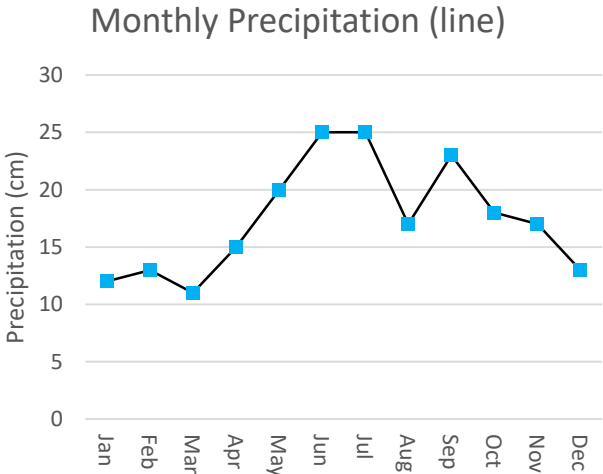
Monthly Precipitation (scatter)



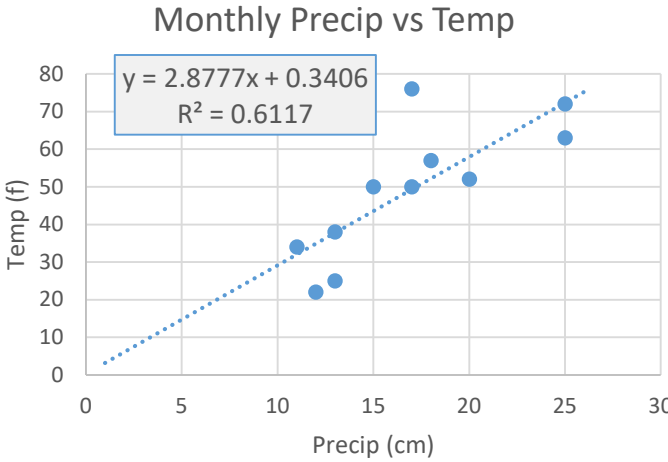
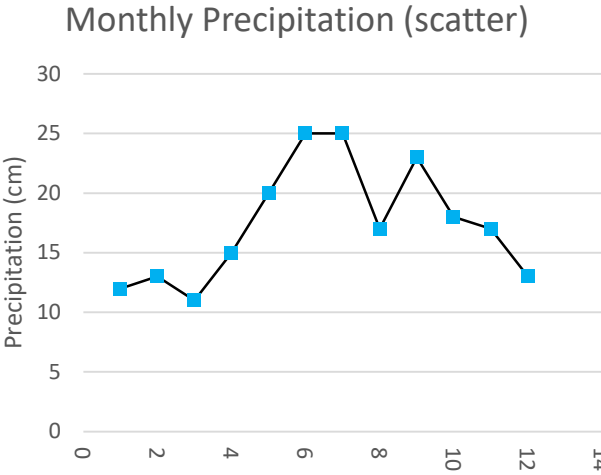
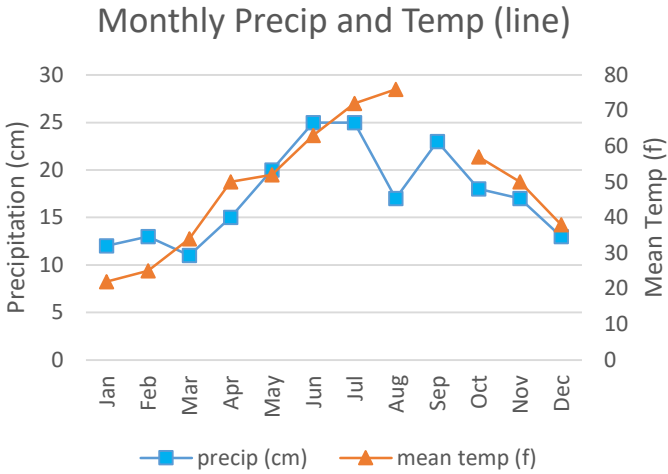
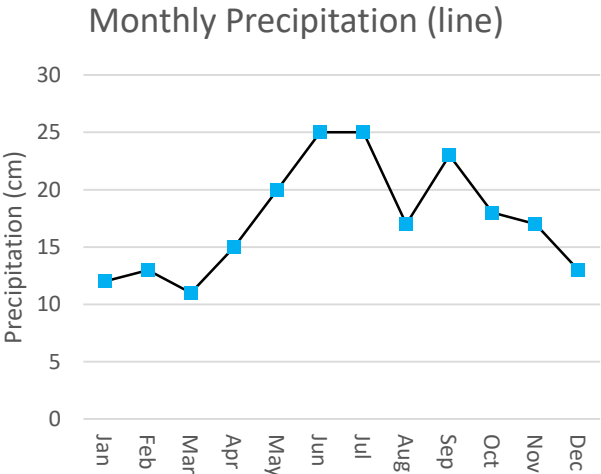
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Email

# Professionalism when using email:

Emails should include:

**A descriptive subject line**      GEOL3140 S19 – Question on homework due next Weds

**A greeting**                      Professor,  
Dr. Heiss,

**Body of text**                      I am working on the current assignment and have a few questions. Do you have any time to meet on Thursday between 12 and 4 or Friday after 11?

**Closing**                              Thank you,  
Enthusiastic Hydro Student

# Professionalism when using email:

Inappropriate emails:

*Hey sorry I wasn't in class today. Just wanted to check that I didn't miss anything important??*

*Hi I need to meet with you tomorrow asap can you let me know when you're available?*

*Hello, when is the homework due?*

I will make every effort to respect your time and energy.

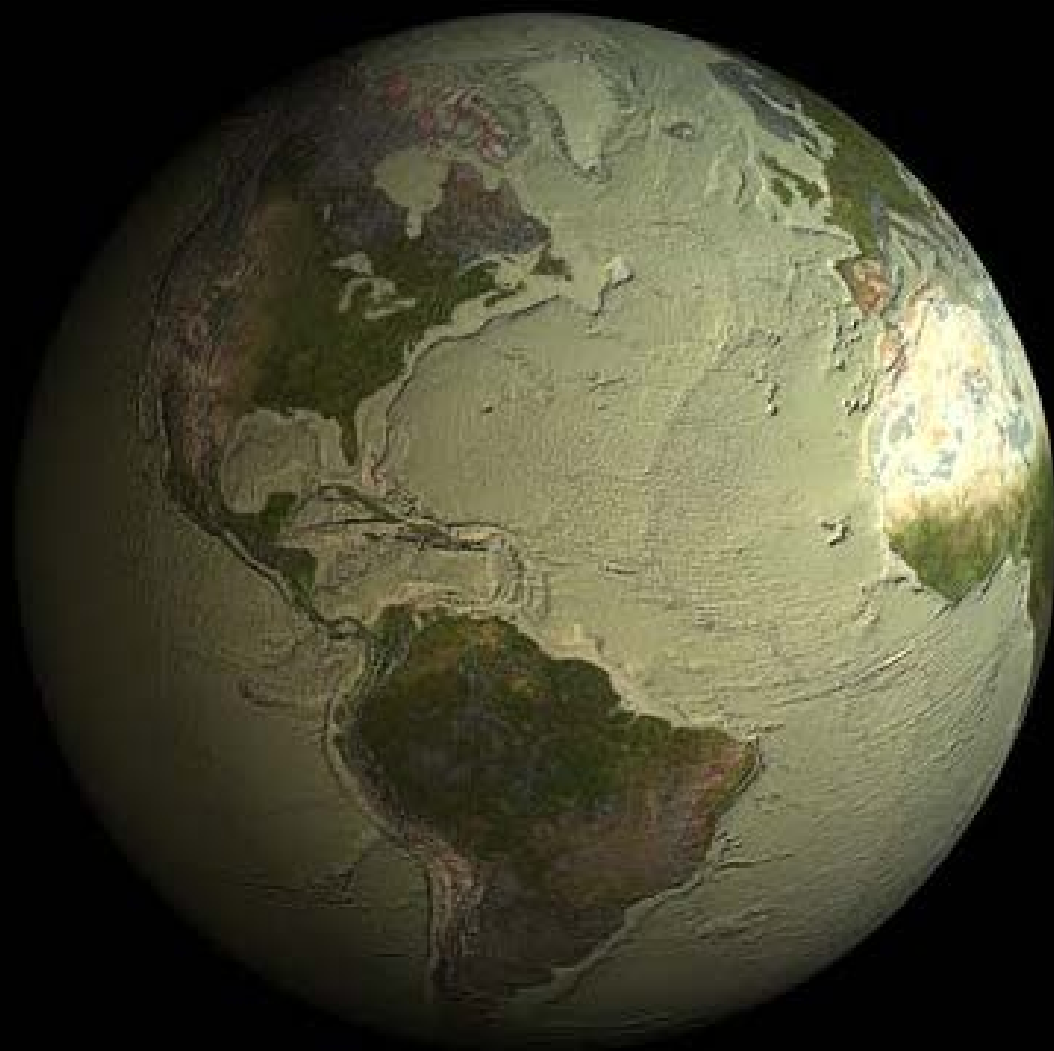
I respect your right to a timely and helpful email response. I respond to emails Monday through Friday from 9am through 5pm. I make every effort to respond within one day.

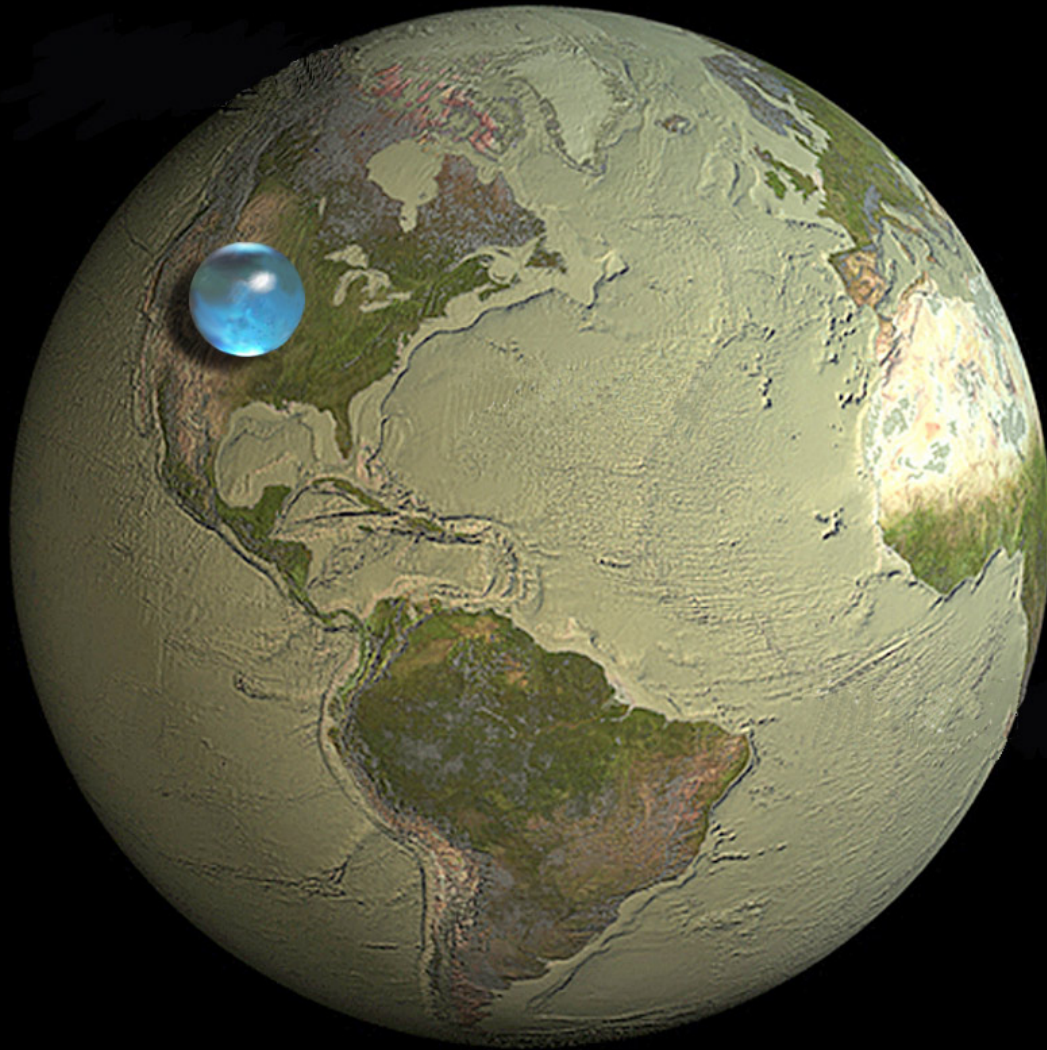
I also ask that you check your own email once each week day. Any changes to class will be communicated via email.



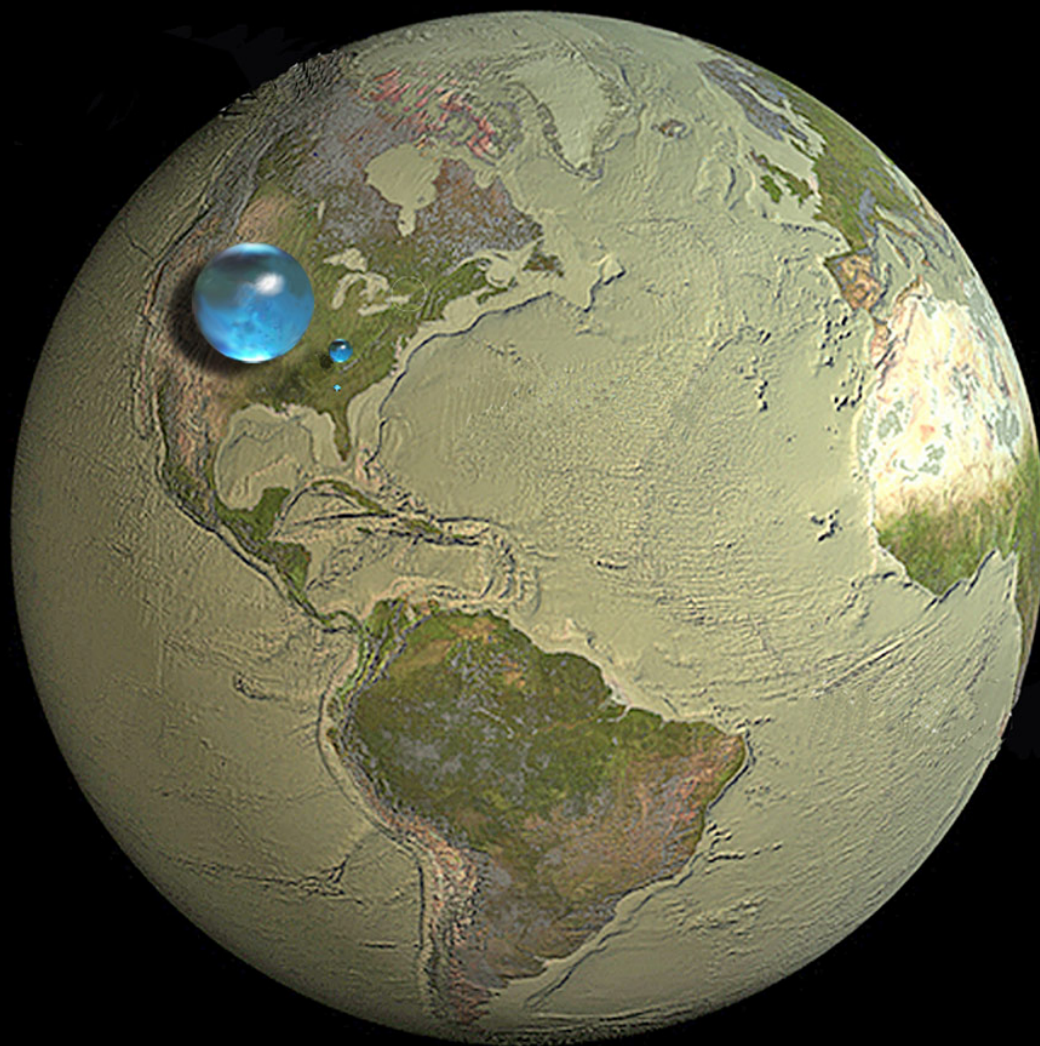
# Any questions?

(I like feedback)





Credit: [Howard Perlman](#), USGS;  
globe illustration by [Jack Cook](#),  
Woods Hole Oceanographic  
Institution ([@](#)); [Adam Nieman](#).  
Data source: Igor Shiklomanov's  
chapter "World fresh water  
resources" in Peter H. Gleick (editor),  
1993, *Water in Crisis: A Guide to the  
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# Water on Earth

## Definitions

- Hydrology →

- Hydrogeology →

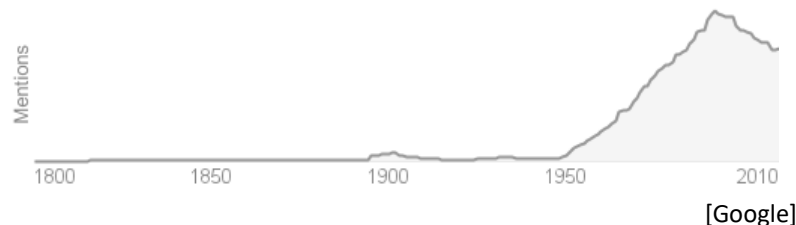
# Water on Earth

## Definitions

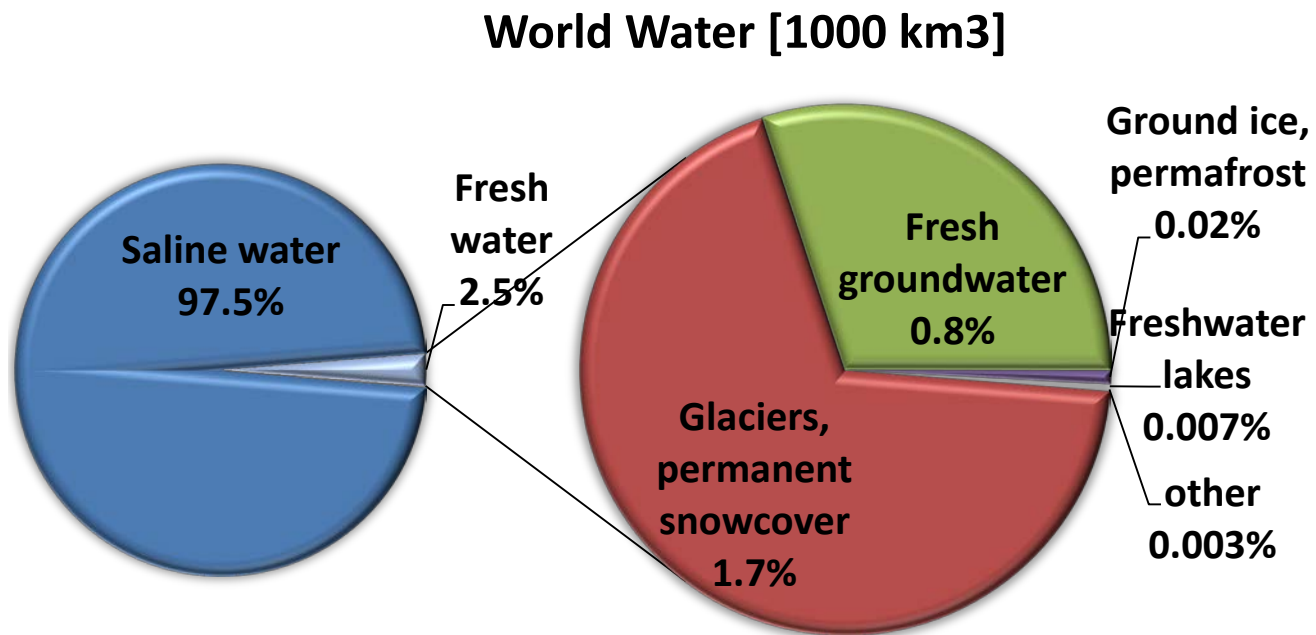
- Hydrology → Occurrence, distribution, movement, and chemistry of all waters of earth system



- Hydrogeology → Interactions of water with geologic materials
  - syn: groundwater hydrology, geohydrology
  - Includes saturated and unsaturated zone



*The total usable freshwater supply for ecosystems and people is around 200,000 km<sup>3</sup> of water, which is less than one percent of all freshwater resources.*



Source: Adapted from Peter H. Gleick. *The World's Water 2000-2001*. Washington, DC: Island Press, 2000.

<b>Parameter</b>	<b>Equivalent Depth (m)*</b>	<b>Approximate Residence Time</b>
Oceans and seas	2500	4000 years
Lakes and reservoirs	0.25	10 years
Swamps	0.007	1 to 10 years
River channels	0.003	2 weeks
Soil moisture	0.13	2 weeks to 1 year
Groundwater	120	2 weeks to 10 000 years
Ice caps and glaciers	60	10 to 1000 years
Atmospheric water	0.025	10 days
Biospheric water	0.001	1 week

\* Computed as though storage were uniformly distributed over the entire surface of the earth.  
Source: Adapted from R. Allen Freeze and John A. Cherry, *Groundwater*. Prentice-Hall: Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey, 1979: p.5.