

INTRODUCTION TO EARTH SYSTEMS (GEOL 1340): INTERNET

Semester: Fall, 2018

Instructor: Dr. Jennifer N. Lytwyn

Exam Review Sessions: See schedule below

Office Hours: MW 1:30-2:30pm or e-mail for appointment

Sections: 18163 & 18332

Office: Room 227-D, S&R-1

E-mail: jlytwyn@uh.edu.

Course Schedule

Dates	Topics	Module	Lectures	Assignments (Optional)
Aug. 18	Orientation 1:00pm, Room SEC 101*: Attendance optional			
Aug. 20-25	1_Essentials of Geography	Mod. 1	1a, 1b, 1c	
Aug. 26-31	2_Solar Energy and Seasons	Mod. 2	2a, 2b	
Sept. 1-4	2_Earth's Atmosphere	Mod. 2	2c, 2d	
Sept. 5-8	3_Atmospheric Energy and Global Temp.	Mod. 3	3a, 3b	#1 in Module 3: Due Sept. 9
Sept. 8	Exam 1 review, 1:00pm, Room SEC 101*: Attendance optional			
Sept. 10-15	Take Exam #1 (Modules 1-3) at CASA-CBB (schedule first in CourseWare)			
Sept. 10-15	4_Atmospheric and Oceanic Circulation	Mod. 4	4a, 4b, 4c	#2 in Module 4: Due Sept. 16
Sept. 16-22	5_Atmospheric Water and Weather	Mod. 5	5a, 5b, 5c	#3 in Module 5: Due Sept. 23
Sept 23-30	6_Water Resources	Mod. 6	6a, 6b	#4 in Module 6: Due Sept. 30
Oct. 1-6	7_Climatic Regions & Climate Change	Mod. 7	7_8	#5 in Module 7: Due Oct. 7
Oct. 6	Exam 2 review, 1:00pm, Room SEC 101*: Attendance optional			
Oct. 7	Last day to sign up for Group Project			
Oct. 8-13	Take Exam #2 (Modules 4-7) at CASA-CBB (schedule first in CourseWare)			
Oct. 8-13	9_Earth's Internal Energy and Structure	Mod. 9	9a (2)	
Oct. 14-20	9_Plate Tectonics	Mod. 9	9b (2)	#6 in Module 9 Due Oct. 21
Oct. 21-25	9_Minerals and Rocks	Mod. 9	9c, 9d (2)	#7 in Module 9 Due Oct. 28
Oct. 26-30	10_Tectonics, Earthquakes and Volcanism	Mod. 10	10a, 10b, 10c	#8 in Module 10 Due Nov. 4
Nov. 1-4	11_Weathering, Karst Landscapes, Mass Movement	Mod. 11	11a, 11b	
Nov. 3	Exam 3 review, 1:00pm, Room SEC 101*: Attendance optional			
Nov. 5-10	Take Exam #3 (Modules 9-11) at CASA-CBB (schedule first in CourseWare)			
Nov. 5-10	13_The Oceans and Coastal Systems	Mod. 13	13a, 13b	
Nov. 11-17	14_Glacial and Periglacial Landscapes	Mod.14,	14a, 14b, 14c	#9 in Module 14 Due Nov. 18

Dates	Topics	Module	Lectures	Assignments (Optional)
Nov. 17	Make-up Exams 1-3, 1:00pm, Room SEC 101*. Bring your laptop to take the exam online. Note that make-up exams are only for those who missed an exam. You cannot retake an exam.			
Nov. 18-21	15_Geography of Soils	Mod. 15	15	
Nov. 22-27	16_Ecosystem Essentials	Mod. 16	16a, 16b	
Nov. 25	Extra Credit Group Projects Due			
Nov. 28 – Dec. 1	17_Terrestrial Biomes	Mod. 17	17	#10 in Module 17 Due Nov. 30
Dec. 1	Exam 4 review, 1:00pm, Room SEC 101*: Attendance optional			
Dec. 3-8	Take Exam #4 (Modules 13-17) at CASA-CBB (schedule first in CourseWare)			

*** Room SEC 101 is in the Science and Engineering Classroom Bldg (see campus map)**

Learning Resources and Class Materials

A. Textbook and Access Code: The textbook is *Elemental Geosystems, 9th Edition*, by Christopherson and Birkeland, published by Pearson Education, Inc. (2019). Currently the bookstore has ISBN: 9780134817446 which is the paperback book, \$130.95 net. You will also need to purchase an **Access Code** to Mastering if you plan on doing the optional assignments.

Alternative options include:

Looseleaf text packaged with Mastering access code, ISBN: 9780135165126, \$109.95 net

Paperback text packaged with Mastering access code, ISBN: 9780135165133, \$140.95

OR you can purchase digital access to the Modified Mastering Geology course:

With eText: \$78.95

Without eText: \$45.95

From within Mastering, you can request a print upgrade for \$45 to obtain a loose leaf copy of the text. Ground Shipping is free.

B. Accessing Mastering Online: See the document ‘GettingStarted_MyLabMastering’ in the Welcome folder in the course on Blackboard.

C. Blackboard Learn: The main forum for this class is Blackboard Learn. Log in via AccessUH at <https://accessuh.uh.edu/login.php>. If you are a first-time user of Blackboard, then follow the posted instructions. Note that you must be officially registered for this course in order to gain access in Blackboard. Become familiar with the course in Blackboard by browsing through the various features displayed on the **Course Content** (home) page. Open the folder labeled **Welcome** to access the syllabus and other important information. After familiarizing yourself with the course in Blackboard, take the *Orientation Quiz* posted in the **Exams** folder for

5 points extra credit on Exam 1. You can take this quiz as many times as you like, but ultimately must make a score of 90 or above to receive the extra credit.

D. Learning Modules: The materials for this course are contained within learning modules in Blackboard. The schedule above lists the assigned dates for each module. Module numbers correspond to chapter numbers in the textbook. When opening a module, a list of tasks will appear in the left menu. Begin at the top of the module and work your way down by reading the assigned chapter(s) and watching the lectures. Each module also contains the lecture slides as pdf files. I recommend printing the lecture slides and adding your own notes while watching the lectures. The annotated slides will be your study guide for upcoming exams. You will also find optional assignments in appropriate modules (see Assignments below).

E. Communication: My office location, phone number, and UH e-mail are noted on the top of this syllabus. We will mostly communicate through Blackboard:

- Important reminders and notices will be posted at the top of the **Course Content** (home) page. You should see these important messages when entering the course in Blackboard.
- Become familiar with the **Messages Tool** located on the menu bar to the left of the Course Content page. The Messages Tool is like e-mail except that you can only send and receive messages from the instructor and students in the class. **DO NOT USE THE MESSAGES TOOL FOR MASS MAILINGS TO EVERYONE IN CLASS.** Use the Messages Tool only for private communication with me or individual students in the class.
- You can also post messages in the **Discussions Tool** located on the left menu of the Course Content (home) page. **USE THE DISCUSSIONS TO POST MESSAGES INTENDED FOR EVERYONE IN CLASS.** Messages posted in the Discussions will be visible to everyone in the class. Open the Discussions Tool and select the appropriate topic to post your message. Start by selecting the *Introductions* topic, click the *Create Message* button, and enter your name in the *Subject* textbox. Then type a little about yourself and afterwards post your message for all to see. Note that you can also *Reply* to other posted messages. Check all topics in the **Discussions** Folder every two or three days for important reminders and other information that I will occasionally post. **IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO KEEP UP WITH ALL COMMUNICATIONS POSTED IN THE DISCUSSIONS.**
- The **Chat Room** is also available for real-time communication and online study groups.

F. Geoscience Learning Center: The Geoscience Learning Center is a facility on campus that provides assistance, tutoring, and study materials for students of the Earth and Atmospheric Sciences. See the information posted for the GLC in the **Welcome** folder for location and hours of operation. The teaching assistants at the Learning Center are there to help you better understand the course materials. They will help you with any questions or problems you may have regarding the course. I encourage you to take advantage of this resource. There are videos, textbooks, rock and mineral samples, and interactive computer resources that will help you better understand the topics we will cover. Their website can be accessed at <http://www.geosc.uh.edu/undergraduate/learning-center/index.php> for more information.

In summary, utilize the Geoscience Learning Center for the following:

- Personalized help by TAs
- Reviews for upcoming exams
- Learning resources
- Rocks and minerals
- Organize and meet study groups

Student Evaluation: Exams

A. Exams: There will be four exams, each worth 25% of your total grade. The final exam will be worth the same as the other three exams and will not be comprehensive. You must take all four exams. No exam will be dropped. The four exams will be averaged for a final grade. The grading scale is as follows: 90-100 (A), 80-89 (B), 70-79 (C), 60-69 (D), <60 (F). I include pluses and minuses. A review session will be held the week before each exam (see schedule) where attendance is optional.

B. Exam Format: The online exams will be available at the CASA-CBB testing center (see below) during the dates indicated in the course schedule. The online exams can be accessed in the **Exams** Folder on the **Course Content** (home) page in Blackboard. The appropriate exam will be visible in this folder during the week that it is scheduled. Each exam will consist of approximately 50 questions, mostly multiple-choice and possibly some true – false, randomly selected from a test bank. The duration of an exam is 60 minutes. You are only allowed one attempt. Once you have submitted your completed exam online, your score will be displayed and recorded in **My Grades** located on the left menu of the **Course Content** page.

C. Testing Center: You will take all four exams online in Blackboard at the CASA-CBB testing facilities unless other arrangements have been made to take the exams off-campus. CASA-CBB is located in Room 242 of the Classroom and Business Building (CBB) on the UH main campus. See the CASA-CBB website at <http://www.casa.uh.edu/casa/> for more information. Exams are IP restricted and can only be accessed on CASA-CBB computers. **STUDENTS WHO LIVE WITHIN 50 MILES OF THE UH CENTRAL CAMPUS ARE EXPECTED TO TAKE EXAMS AT CASA-CBB (OR CENTER FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES).** Students who live over 50 miles from campus and cannot make it to CASA-CBB must contact me individually by e-mail during the first two weeks of the semester and arrange to take the exams at a different testing center.

D. Making Reservations for Exams: Those taking exams at CASA-CBB will need to create an account in CourseWare at <http://www.casa.uh.edu/> the first week of class. The exam scheduler will allow you to make a reservation to take an exam at CASA-CBB beginning two weeks prior to the exam period. Each exam will be available on Blackboard for one week (see above schedule for dates), which should give you plenty of options for reserving a date and time to take the exam at CASA-CBB. Note that thousands of students from different classes take exams at CASA-CBB, so **MAKE YOUR RESERVATION 2 WEEKS BEFORE THE SCHEDULED EXAM DATES** in order to be assured your preferred date and time. Saturday time slots fill fast,

so make your reservations early in order to be assured a spot. Otherwise you will need to settle for a less favorable date and time.

E. Make-up Policy: If you miss an exam, then you can make it up on the Saturday set aside for make-up exams as indicated in the Course Schedule. Those who miss two exams in a row must see me in person and present documentation proving that the second missed exam was unavoidable and beyond the control of the student. **NOBODY WILL BE ALLOWED TO MAKE UP THREE EXAMS.** Those taking exams at different testing centers (not CASA-CBB), either the CSD or off-campus, must contact me immediately regarding a missed exam. Do not assume that you can also make up an exam at your alternative testing center on the day of make-up exams.

F. Policy on Grades of I (Incomplete): If you miss one exam and are unable to make it up before the end of the semester, I will consider giving you an incomplete. You must first prove that the missed exam was due to circumstances beyond your control. You will then have one year to make up the exam. If you do not make up the exam in one year's time, the incomplete will automatically be changed to an 'F'. Note that you must have taken three of the four exams and have a reasonable chance of passing the course in order to receive an incomplete. **DO NOT ASSUME THAT COMPLETING THREE OF FOUR EXAMS BY THE END OF THE SEMESTER WILL AUTOMATICALLY EARN YOU AN INCOMPLETE.** If you cannot complete one exam by the end of the semester, you must contact me within 24 hours of the exam deadline with a valid excuse. I will then decide whether your reason for missing the exam warrants an incomplete. Failure to contact me about a missed exam will result in a zero for that exam, which will then be averaged with your other exam scores for a final letter grade. See the UH Student Handbook for more information regarding incompletes.

G. Dropping the Course: Wednesday, September 5, is the last day to drop a course or withdrawal without receiving a grade. **Thursday, November 1,** is the last day to drop the course or withdrawal and receive a **W**. It is your responsibility to drop the course if you so choose. If you choose not to complete the course, do not assume that you will be dropped or will automatically receive a grade of **W**. If you do not officially drop the course, I will continue to carry you on the rolls and assign a grade based on your scores at the end of the semester.

Beginning in Fall semester 2007, all students (current, transfer, and first time in college students) are permitted a total of six **Ws** (withdrawals), whether student or instructor initiated. **Ws** may be used at any time during their college career to drop a course up through the last day to drop a course or withdraw from all courses. When these six **Ws** have been used, the student must complete all subsequent courses.

Assignments (Optional) Can Replace Lowest Score for Exams 1-3

You will need to purchase an access code from the publisher in order to access the assignments in Mastering. See the document 'Getting Started_MyLabMastering' posted on the Blackboard course in the Welcome folder. Assignments and due dates are listed in the course schedule and available in the **Learning Modules** (see schedule). These assignments are optional but can be

used to replace the lowest exam score for Exams 1-3. **DO YOUR OWN WORK. SANCTIONS WILL BE IMPOSED FOR PLAGIARISM AS OUTLINED IN THE UH POLICY ON ACADEMIC HONESTY.** Each assignment (10 total) is posted in the appropriate Learning Module as indicated in the course schedule. Note the assignment due dates since you will not receive credit for late submissions. After submitting your answers, your score will be displayed and recorded in My Grades. Your average score for all ten assignments can be used to replace your lowest exam score for Exams 1-3 if the average is higher than any of the three exam scores. If all exam scores are higher than the average of the assignments, then none will be replaced. Note that the average will be based on the total number of assignments, not just the ones that you completed, so it is important to complete all the assignments. Missed assignments will be assigned zeros and included in calculating the average. **NOTE THAT THE ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT REPLACE YOUR EXAM 4 SCORE OR A MISSED EXAM.**

Extra Credit Group Project (Optional)

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board encourages team work in courses offered by state universities. In order to comply with this recommendation, extra credit will be awarded to those participating in group projects. Participation in a group project is optional. If you are interested in being part of a group project, then read the accompanying document [Instructions For Group Project](#) located in the **Welcome Folder** on the Course Content (home) page of Blackboard Learn. Members of successful projects will have their final course average (average of the four exams) increased by three percent. See the instructions for more information.

Student Evaluation: Final Grade

Your final grade will be based on the average of four exams (after the lowest score is replaced by the assignment average) in addition to any extra credit earned from the Group Project. The grading scale is as follows: 90-100 (A), 80-89 (B), 70-79 (C), 60-69 (D), <60 (F). Letter grades include pluses and minuses.

ADA Guidelines

Whenever possible, and in accordance with 504/ADA guidelines, the University of Houston will attempt to provide reasonable academic accommodations to students who request and require them. Please contact the Center for Students with Disabilities at 713-743-5400 for more assistance.

Academic Honesty

Review the UH policy on academic honesty, especially with regard to penalties for plagiarism and cheating, at <http://catalog.uh.edu/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=1025>. This policy will be strictly enforced.