

Classroom: ENV 130

Instructor: Dr. Yuting Li

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Office: ENV 310R

Virtual office hours: T TH 10 am – 10:30 am (zoom)
or by appointment

TA: Zachary Macdonald

Email: ZacharyMacdonald2@my.unt.edu

Virtual office hour: M W 3:30 pm–4 pm (zoom)
or by appointment

Access to virtual office hours is through the zoom link on Canvas course page during the above times.

Recommended Textbook (not required)

Foundations of Earth Science by Lutgens and Tarbuck (9th edition)

ebook available through

<https://www.pearson.com/en-us/subject-catalog/p/foundations-of-earth-science/P200000006997>

Supplementary open source books:

<https://courses.lumenlearning.com/suny-earthscience/>

<https://courses.lumenlearning.com/suny-geophysical/>

<https://slcc.pressbooks.pub/physicalgeography/>

Broad Course Goals

GEOG 1710 is designed primarily for non-geoscience majors and provides a brief introduction to Planet Earth including the following geoscience subjects: atmosphere (air), hydrosphere (water), lithosphere (rock), and biosphere (life). The coursework, assignments, and examinations emphasize developing a basic understanding of geoscience processes and concepts.

Earth Science meets the General Education requirements for a Natural Science course by devoting the semester to helping students understand “energy and cycles in the dynamic earth system, and the origin and evolution of the universe and the earth system”. Within this context, a significant proportion of the class is used to describe and discuss the following core concepts and topics (see below). Strategies include active, inquiry-based learning so students will learn how to observe, think about, and understand our place in the natural environment.

- Earth scientists use repeatable observations and testable ideas to understand and explain our planet.
- Earth is 4.6 billion years old.
- Earth is a complex system of interacting rock, water, air, and life.
- Earth is continuously changing.
- Earth is the water planet.
- Humans depend on Earth for resources.
- Natural hazards pose risks to humans.
- Humans significantly alter the Earth.

Scientific methods and models are used throughout the course. This course will focus on helping students use scientific methods to understand how and when Earth formed, to understand the physical processes that control the internal structure and external shape of Earth, and to understand the changes that have occurred over Earth’s long history and that change is still occurring.

Format, Structure, and Expectations

This course has a lecture part and a separate lab part. This syllabus is only for the lecture part. All email correspondence for the lecture will be sent to your UNT university email account via Canvas. You are expected to read your @my.unt.edu email on a frequent basis. We will make daily use of the UNT Canvas system, especially for course announcements, ancillary materials and web links, and grading. Lecture slides will be uploaded onto Canvas after each class. Office hours are held virtually through zoom. All the discussion forums, homework, and exams are online. If you are unfamiliar with using Canvas, there is an Introductory Tutorial in the “Getting Started” module of the course Canvas site.

Two heads are usually better than one in solving problems and alternative perspectives offered by your classmates may take your ideas in new directions. In order to promote more interactions beyond classroom, discussion forums will be held online on *Canvas*. The discussion is to link what you are learning in class to real-life events that have been reported in the press. *I encourage you to be open, courteous, and respectful, and need everyone to contribute.*

Email Policy

- When you email, **please make sure to use “GEOG 1710 Section 004” in subject line** and sign message with your full name. This will help me tremendously in locating and responding to your emails quickly.

Grading

The lecture is worth 70% of your course final grade and the in-person lab is worth 30% of your grade.

LABS: You must be registered for an in-person GEOG 1710 lab - the lab is worth 30% of your final grade. Labs give you hands-on experience on a variety of geoscience topics. The Lab and Lecture parts are in separate Canvas sites and taught by different instructors. Teaching, testing, and grading of the lab work is the responsibility of your lab TA (Teaching Assistant). Please refer all lab questions to your lab TA.

Lecture Grade breakdown

In-class attendance	10 pts each (10*10=100 pts in total)
Homework on <i>Canvas</i>	20 pts each (20*8=160 pts in total)
Online discussion on <i>Canvas</i>	40 pts each (40*4=160 pts in total)
3 “in-class” Exams on <i>Canvas</i>	100 pts each (3*100=300 pts in total)
1 Final Exam on <i>Canvas</i>	100 pts

Your Lecture Grade is based on 820 pts (100+160+160+400)

No make ups! (If you have a conflict, contact Dr. Li as early as possible)

This course consists of four modules, each requiring a monitored *Canvas* discussion, two homework, and a timed online exam.

Class Attendance:

- Starting from Week 2, twelve class attendance will be taken randomly throughout the semester.
- 10 pts each, 10 out of the 12 count. Therefore, you may miss 2 classes before it starts to affect the grade.
- No make-up attendance.
- Emergencies that result in your absence should be emailed with appropriate documentation as far as in advance as possible.

Online Homework:

- Assigned on Canvas. 20 pts each, 2 homework in each module, 8 homework in total.
- 8–10 questions in each homework, multiple format (multiple choice, matching, True/False). Two attempts will be given to answer each homework question to ensure full understanding of the material. Only best score is recorded.
- Each week's homework will be posted on Monday at 12:00 AM CDT and will be due on Friday of that week at 11:59 PM CDT.
- Late homework will NOT be accepted.

Online Discussion:

- Assigned on *Canvas*. 40 pts each, 4 discussions in total.
- During discussion week, you will need to post one original discussion post and at least two response posts to your classmates, all of which need to be completed to get full credit. Detailed grading rubric is posted on “Introduction” Canvas page.
- Each discussion forum is open at 12:00 AM CDT on the Monday of that week and **has two deadlines**. Please make your initial discussion post (must be at least 150 words in length) by the Thursdays at 11:59 PM, and at least two response posts (at least 5 sentences in each) to your classmates by Fridays at 11:59 PM in that week.
- AI should not be used to assist in writing your discussion posts, posts detected as AI-generated will get 0 pts.
- Dr. Li and TA monitor and attend discussions. We all know that Internet forums can be harsh environments with a lot of people feeling they can be rude because they are hidden behind a screen. Responses of this nature are not acceptable. Responses should be informative, polite, and well intentioned when you communicate with your fellow classmates. Remember, grading is based on the overall quality of your initial question post and two responses – read them through and check spelling and grammar before posting.
- Late posts will NOT be accepted.

3 In-class Exams (100 pts each)

- Assigned on Canvas. Not comprehensive (only test on materials covered in each module).
- Each contains ~50 questions (multiple choice, matching, True/False).
- Timed, you will have 80 minutes to complete each exam. Once you start an exam, the countdown clock starts, so be sure to complete it within that 80 minutes of when you first started. If you are kicked offline, you will need to log back in ASAP. Please plan ahead and secure a quiet space with a **STRONG AND RELIABLE INTERNET CONNECTION**.
- Only one attempt is allowed for each exam.
- Each in-class exam will be available at 12:00 AM CDT on the scheduled class day and is due at 11:59 PM CDT on the same day. You have to complete the exam during this 24-hour window.
- There will be review sessions. Review slides will be posted.

- Even though exams are taken online through Canvas, all exams are to be taken closed book/closed note and on an individual (not group) basis.
- Late exams will NOT be accepted.

You must take the exams by yourself. Do not share information about them with anyone else. Please be aware, Canvas has extensive cheating and plagiarism detection capability. Cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty are completely unacceptable and have dire consequences (see section on academic dishonesty below).

1 Final Exam (100 pts)

- The final exam is **not** comprehensive and will cover the material of the last module after Exam 3.
- Assigned on Canvas, 1 attempt allowed.
- Contains ~50 questions (multiple choice, matching, True/False).
- Timed, only open for 2 hours on the scheduled day. Final exam schedule can be found here: <https://registrar.unt.edu/exams/final-exam-schedule/fall.html>
- There will be review sessions. Review slides will be posted.
- Even though exams are taken online through Canvas, all exams are to be taken closed book/closed note and on an individual (not group) basis.

Grade Posting

All grades will be posted on Canvas. *You have 7 days after a grade has been posted to dispute an entry.* After the 7-day period, the grade stands as entered. Do not wait until the end of the course to check your grades.

One reminder here: DO NOT rely on Canvas Grade calculation to check your current grade status. Only after we grade the last assignment, you will know what the final grade for the course is. All the ungraded assignments are automatically treated as zero. For instance, if your CANVAS reports you 90%, the 90 is not the accumulated points you earned. That's how Canvas is set up and we do not have a solution yet.

Letter Grade

The grading schema for our course is:

- A: 89.5% - 100%
- B: 79.5% - 89.5%
- C: 69.5% - 79.5%
- D: 59.5% - 69.5%
- F: < 59.5%

Make-up Work

You are responsible for managing your time and keeping up with the course. Only the instructor can excuse a student from a course requirement or responsibility. Attendance, online homework, and online discussion **cannot** be made up. Make-up work for exams will only be allowed **before** the exam date. Students must provide ***advance*** notice **at least before 1 week** of the exam date **and documentation** for an absence to be considered excused. Exams CANNOT be made up for non-emergency, unexcused absences, or absences that occur without prior notification to the instructor.

Moreover, it is your responsibility to make sure you have a reliable Internet connection when completing an online exam. Late exams or assignments will not be accepted due to Internet issues at your location. They will also not be accepted just because you “forgot” to complete the exam or assignment.

SPOT:

The Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT) is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT.

This short survey will be made available to you on Nov. 11, providing you a chance to submit course evaluation. Students will receive an email from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via IASystem Notification" (no-reply@iasystem.org) with the survey link. Please look for the email in your UNT email inbox. Once you complete the survey, you will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the SPOT website (<http://spot.unt.edu/>) or email spot@unt.edu.

I consider the SPOT to be an important part of your participation in this class. To encourage all students to do evaluations, I have made completing the course evaluation as an extra-credit. Every student who completes a SPOT and submit the screen shot of the completion confirmation through Canvas link will receive **1 actual extra point** toward your overall final grade. Just doing the evaluation without submitting your screenshot does not count. Please read the instructions in the Canvas link carefully.

Other than SPOT, no extra credit assignment will be accepted.

Attendance/Absences

Students are expected to be present for every meeting of this class. Only the instructor can excuse a student from a course requirement or responsibility. FYI, there are other 1710 sections designed to be fully online available for you to choose if you prefer a remote delivery method.

When conflicts or absences can be anticipated, such as for many University sponsored activities and religious observations, the student should inform the instructor of the situation as far in advance as possible, and provide the regular documentation. For unanticipated or emergency absences when advance notification to an instructor is not possible, the student should contact the instructor as soon as possible by email.

Diversity Statement

I want to create a safe and positive learning environment that supports a diversity of thoughts, perspectives and experiences, and honors your identities (race, gender, class, sexuality, religion, ability, etc.). To help accomplish this:

- Let me know if you have a preferred name and/or set of pronouns.
- Don't hesitate to talk with me if you feel like your performance in the class is being impacted by your experiences outside of class. I can be a resource for you or direct you to needed resources.
- I (like many people) am still in the process of learning about diverse perspectives and identities. If something was said in class (by anyone) that made you feel uncomfortable, please talk to me about it.

Accessibility and Accommodations:

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. If you seek accommodation, first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify your eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter to be

delivered to me to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in this course. You may request accommodations at any time; however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at <http://www.unt.edu/oda>. You may also contact them by phone at 940-565-4323.

Class Disruptions are defined as activities that distract the instructor or other students from the course content. Such activities include talking or whispering, cell phones ringing, tardiness or whispering about another tardy student, noisily preparing to leave the class prior to the end of the period, etc. As a college student, you are considered a responsible adult. Your enrollment indicates acceptance of the University of North Texas college code of student conduct. Disruptive students will be asked to leave the class. Repeat offenders may be withdrawn and reported to the Dean of Students Office (DOS).

Cellular Telephones/Text Messaging/Pagers

Please turn all cellular telephones and pagers to silent during class time – this includes text messaging. If your work situation requires that you be on call, please notify the instructor prior to class.

Use of Laptops in the Classroom

You are only permitted to use a laptop during class to take notes or in-class quizzes, as long as you do not disturb your neighbors. Laptops may not be used during class time to answer email, browse the web, listen to music, or any other activity not related to class. If you are using your laptop for one of these unauthorized activities, you will be asked to leave class.

Academic Dishonesty:

Academic integrity is one of the highest values that UNT holds. *Cheating* in this class is absolutely not tolerated. If you are caught you will be given a Zero for that assignment and other measures including reporting to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities may be taken at my discretion.

According to the UNT catalog, the term "cheating" includes, but is not limited to: (a) use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; (b) dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; (c) the acquisition, without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to a faculty or staff member of the university; (d) dual submission of a paper or project, or resubmission of a paper or project to a different class without express permission from the instructor(s); or (e) any other act designed to give a student an unfair advantage. Altering a returned test and claiming a grader or scanning machine made an error is also considered cheating.

The term "plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to: (a) the knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment; and (b) the knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.

According to UNT's webpage on [AI, Plagiarism, and Academic Integrity](#):

a. AI should not be used to assist in writing papers, searching for sources, or creating citations. Some citations provided by AI are not reliable.

b. AI can be used to help students develop an outline for a paper, generate ideas, and learn a citation style.

Course Timeline and Due Dates:

** subject to change by the instructor as needed. Any updates will be posted on the course Canvas site.*

** Chapter number below in the table is based on **the 9th edition of the textbook**, please adjust according to the chapter title if you are using the 8th edition. Contents are similar between these two versions, only the orders of some chapters are different.*

Dates	Assignments and due dates
Week 1 8.18 Course Intro 8.20 Earth System (P4-19 + Ch. 4.6)	Homework 1 (also includes some questions about syllabus) ➤ Due 8.22 11:59 PM
Week 2 8.25 Ch. 15-16: Solar System and the Universe (atmosphere formation and development) 8.27 Ch. 11 Atmosphere and Surface Energy Balances	Homework 2 ➤ Due 8.29 11:59 PM
Week 3 9.1 Labor Day, no class 9.3 Ch. 13 Atmospheric Circulation and Climate Change	
Week 4 9.8 Review for Exam 1 <u>9.10 Exam 1 (online)</u>	Canvas Discussion 1 ➤ Initial post due 9.11 11:59 PM ➤ 2 responses due 9.12 11:59 PM
Week 5 9.15 Ch. 6 Rivers 9.17 Ch. 9 Oceans	Homework 3 ➤ Due 9.19 11:59 PM
Week 6 9.22 Ch. 10 Ocean Circulation 9.24 Ch. 10 Coasts	Homework 4 ➤ Due 9.26 11:59 PM
Week 7 9.29 Ch. 10 El Niño 10.1 Review for Exam 2	Canvas Discussion 2 ➤ Initial post due 10.2 11:59 PM ➤ 2 responses due 10.3 11:59 PM
Week 8 <u>10.6 Exam 2 (online)</u> 10.8 Ch. 1 Matter and Minerals	
Week 9 10.13 Ch. 2 Rocks 10.15 Ch. 3 The way the Earth works: Plate Tectonics	Homework 5 ➤ Due 10.17 11:59 PM
Week 10 10.20 Ch. 3 Plate Tectonics 10.22 Ch. 4 Earthquakes and Mountain Building	Homework 6 ➤ Due 10.24 11:59 PM
Week 11 10.27 Review for Exam 3 <u>10.29 Exam 3 (online)</u>	Canvas Discussion 3 ➤ Initial post due 10.30 11:59 PM ➤ 2 responses due 10.31 11:59 PM

Week 12 11.3 Ch. 4 Earthquake energy and size 11.5 Ch. 4 Earthquake hazards and prediction	Homework 7 ➤ Due 11.7 11:59 PM
Week 13 11.10 Ch. 5 Volcanoes 11.12 Ch. 5 Volcanic hazards and protection	Homework 8 ➤ Due 11.14 11:59 PM
Week 14 11.17 Ch. 8 Geologic Time 11.19 Review for Final Exam	Canvas Discussion 4 ➤ Initial post due 11.20 11:59 PM ➤ 2 responses due 11.21 11:59 PM
Week 15 11.24 No class, Happy Holiday! 11.26 No class, Happy Holiday!	
Week 16 12.1 Course reflection survey (online) 12.3 Pre-finals Day, No class	Course Topic Reflection Survey ➤ Due 12.4 11:59 PM SPOT Extra Credit Submission ➤ Due 12.4 11:59 PM
Week 17 <u>12.8 1:30pm–3:30pm FINAL Exam (online)</u>	