



蘇州大學
Soochow University

GEO 121 Introductory Earth Science

Winter 2024

Course Credits: 4

Contact Hours: 56 hours

Instructor: TBA

Email: TBA

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course provides an introduction to the geological processes of Earth's interior and surface. The major topics covered in this course include weathering, erosion, glaciers, oceans, meteorology, plate tectonics, volcanism, earthquakes, mountain-building, rocks, the solar system, and so forth. Throughout the course, students will learn Earth's history, geological processes and the evolution of its systems, and develop independent insights into the present and future demand for natural resources. Additionally, the course incorporates a range of laboratory exercises on selected topics.

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Understand fundamental concepts of Earth sciences;
2. Interpret and create topographic maps;
3. Identify minerals and rock samples through diagnostic properties and tests;
4. Collect, analyze, and interpret basic weather/climate data;
5. Synthesize patterns and relationships within the solar system.

PREREQUISITES

N/A

GRADING

Grades will be determined by accumulating points, with 100 points being the maximum, as follows:



ITEM	POINTS
4 Lab Reports	40 Points
Essay	15 Points
Midterm Exam	20 Points
Final Exam	25 Points
Total	100 Points

Late submissions will be graded at the end of the course. Grades will be assigned according to the following rule:

$A \geq 90 > B \geq 80 > C \geq 70 > D \geq 60 > F$.

We reserve the right to make adjustments to the overall grading policy.

COURSE MATERIALS

Required Texts:

Glencoe Earth Science: Geology, the Environment, and the Universe, Laboratory Manual, Student Edition, McGraw-Hill, 2008.

Recommended (Optional) Texts or Other Materials:

None

COURSE TOPICS

MODULE	TASKS
Module 1	Topics: Topic 1: Course Introduction: The Nature of Earth Science Topic 2: Mapping Our World Topic 3: Composition of Earth: Matter and Change Topic 4: Minerals and Rocks Assessments: Lab Report#1
Module 2	Topics: Topic 5: Surface Processes on Earth: Weathering, Erosion, and Soil Topic 6: Mass Movements, Wind, and Glaciers Topic 7: Surface Water and Groundwater Topic 8: The Atmosphere and the Oceans Assessments: Lab Report#2



Module 3	<p>Topics: Topic 9: Meteorology and Climate Topic 10: The Dynamic Earth: Plate Tectonics Topic 11: Volcanism Topic 12: Earthquakes</p> <p>Assessments: Midterm Exam</p>
Module 4	<p>Topics: Topic 13: Mountain Building Topic 14: Geologic Time Topic 15: Fossils and the Rock Record Topic 16: Resources and the Environment: Earth Resources, Energy Resources</p> <p>Assessments: Lab Report#3</p>
Module 5	<p>Topics: Topic 17: Human Impact on Resources Topic 18: Our Solar System Topic 19: Stars Topic 20: Galaxies and the Universe</p> <p>Assessments: Lab Report#4 Final Exam Essay Due</p>

Labs:

Week	Time	Content
1	TBA	Locate Places on Earth
2	TBA	Model Glacial Deposition
3	TBA	Simulate the Process of a Volcanic Eruption
4	TBA	Model the Solar System

ATTENDANCE

1) Class attendance is required. Missing classes without permission will lead to decrease in overall grade.

Missing less than two classes: no penalty.



Missing more than two classes: 7% will be taken off from the overall grade.

If the instructor reports a student's frequent missing of class to the Soochow University Academic Administration Office, the student might get a written warning and might be prohibited from attending final exam.

2) Participants in this course are expected to arrive in class promptly and adequately prepared. The primary objective of this course is to critically engage with the readings and the subject matter. Therefore, course participants are expected to have completed the reading prior to class and prepare thoughtful reflections/commentaries to share with fellow colleagues.

LEARNING REQUIREMENTS

- 1) Late assignments are not acceptable and are subjected to grade deductions.
- 2) Assignments submitted in the wrong format will be counted as not submitted.
- 3) Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in failure of the class.
- 4) Make-up for midterm and final exams only with valid excuses, as defined by the University.
- 5) In order to earn a Certificate of Completion, participants must thoughtfully complete all assignments by stated deadlines and earn an average quiz score of 50% or greater.

TECHNOLOGY POLICY

The use of electronic devices in class is distracting, both for the user and for the rest of the class. Only non-programmable calculators can be used in the tests and exam. Any attempts to use cell phones and other electronic communication devices will be seemed as cheating. Laptops are discouraged, unless you use them for activities DIRECTLY related to the course (e.g., note taking, reading course documents).

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

Soochow University highly values the academic integrity and aims to promote the academic fairness, honesty and responsibility. Any academic dishonesty behaviors and any attempts to cheats and plagiarism will be reported to the university



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administration office. A written warning and the relevant penalties will be imposed. The record might be shown on the official university transcript.

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION

Soochow University is committed to maintaining a barrier-free environment so that students with disabilities can fully access programs, courses, services, and activities at Soochow University. Students with disabilities who require accommodations for access to and/or participation in this course are welcome.

Note:

Please contact the University Administrative Office immediately if you have a learning disability, a medical issue, or any other type of problem that prevents professors from seeing you have learned the course material.