

SYLLABUS
ESCI 1101: Earth Sciences Geography

Lectures: Monday and Wednesday, 12:30 – 1:45 pm, 118 McEniry

Final Exam: Wednesday, May 7, 11:00 am – 1:45 pm

Text: Geosystems: An Introduction to Physical Geography, 6th edition by Robert Christopherson. Published in 2006 by Prentice Hall.

Note: UNCC uses a custom edition that omits certain chapters. If you buy the book from a vendor other than the bookstore, certain elements may be slightly different.

Website: Blackboard (log in through 49er Express)

Instructor: Dr. Anne Jefferson

Office Hours: Monday 1:45-3:45 pm, Wednesday 1:45-2:45 pm, or by appointment

Office Location: 208 McEniry

Mailbox Location: 324 McEniry

E-mail: ajefferson@uncc.edu

Phone: 687-5977

I will make an attempt to answer all emails within two weekdays. For example, if you email me Tuesday at noon, I will return your email by Thursday at noon. If you email me Thursday at noon, I will return your email by Monday at noon.

Note: If you are in my section, you cannot take the lab or use this class to fulfill a lab requirement. If you want or need the lab credit, you must enroll in a linked (1101X) section of this course. If you are a Earth Science or Geography or Geology major, you need to be in a linked section. Please see me if you need help.

Course Objectives:

After completing this course, you should be able to:

1. understand and use common earth science tools like graphs, contour maps, and geographic coordinates
2. identify and describe earth science processes and features in the natural environment
3. discuss and contextualize current earth science topics in the news, such as ozone depletion, hurricanes, climate change, and drought
4. apply the concept of energy and mass balance to earth systems

Grading:

Grades will be based on a combination of quizzes, assignments, and exams.

<u>Assessment</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>% of Grade</u>
Weather Journal	1 @ 50	5.0
Take A Hike Assignment	1 @ 50	5.0
Quizzes	7 @ 28	19.6
Mid Term Exams	2 @ 200	40.0
Final Exam	1 @ 304	30.4
	1000 points	100%

There will be limited opportunities for extra credit given throughout the semester. No more than 50 points of extra credit may be accumulated.

Grades will be distributed based on accumulated points. Point values needed to achieve a given grade may be adjusted downward at the end of the term, but will not be adjusted upward.

A = 850-1000 points

B = 750-849 points

C = 650-749 points

D = 550-649 points

F = 0-549 points

Assessment:

Weather Journal: This assignment will require you to observe the weather for one week. Details will be available on Blackboard by February 1st. This assignment is *due March 10th* in class. Late assignments will be reduced 20% of the given points for each day that they are late.

Take a Hike Assignment: This assignment will consist of a 250 to 350-word description of your observations of Earth Science features and processes, along with supporting documentation. You will need to go for a hike in an outdoor location or visit a local, state, or national park or forestland. You will also need to provide a copy of a trail map, brochure, or photo that you took on your hike. Some local places to consider are Van Landingham Glen on the UNCC Campus, Reedy Creek Nature Preserve, Latta Plantation, and McDowell Park. Details will be available on Blackboard by February 1st. This assignment is *due April 28th* in class. Late assignments will be reduced 20% of the given points for each day that they are late. Assignments should indicate that some thought and analysis has gone into the activity, and they should be free of spelling and grammatical errors. They should be well organized and clearly presented. Writing assistance is available through the Writing Resources Center (<http://www.uncc.edu/writing/wrcindex.html>, 687.HELP).

Quizzes: There will be seven quizzes given through Blackboard Vista. Questions will be multiple choice, true/false, calculation, or short answer, and they will cover material from lecture and from your textbook. Each quiz will consist of seven questions. You may use your textbook, notes, and other resources to answer the questions, but you must take the

quiz alone. There will be a 30 minute time limit for each quiz and you only have one attempt. *Quizzes will become available at 5 pm on Wednesday afternoon and must be finished by 10 am Monday morning. Dates of the web quizzes are listed in the course schedule at the end of this syllabus.* It is not possible to make up web quizzes, unless you are participating in a pre-approved University function or have a documented medical emergency, *during the entire quiz availability period.* If you experience technical issues (computer freezing, Blackboard logging you out) while taking a web quiz, it is imperative that you immediately email your professor at ajefferson@uncc.edu.

Exams: There will be two midterm exams and a cumulative final exam. The exams will include material from lecture and the textbook, and questions may be multiple choice, short answer, true/false, calculation, and other standard formats. It is not possible to make up exams, except in the event that you are participating in a pre-approved University function, have a documented medical emergency, or have notified me that you are celebrating a religious holiday that precludes class attendance.

University Policies

Academic Integrity: “All UNC Charlotte students have the responsibility to be familiar with and to observe the requirements of The UNC Charlotte Code of Student Academic Integrity. This Code forbids cheating, fabrication or falsification of information, multiple submission of academic work, plagiarism, abuse of academic materials (such as Library books on reserve), and complicity in academic dishonesty (helping others to violate the Code). Any further specific requirements or permission regarding academic integrity in this course will be stated by the instructor, and are also binding on the students in this course. Students who violate the Code can be punished to the extent of being permanently expelled from UNC Charlotte and having this fact recorded on their official transcripts. The normal penalty is zero credit on the work involving dishonesty and further substantial reduction of the course grade. In almost all cases, the course grade is reduced to "F." If you do not have a copy of the Code, you can obtain one from the Dean of Students Office or access it online at <http://www.legal.uncc.edu/policies/ps-105.html>. Standards of academic integrity will be enforced in this course. Students are expected to report cases of academic dishonesty they become aware of to the course instructor who is responsible for dealing with them.”

Disability Services: If you have a disability that you believe qualifies you for academic accommodations, please provide a letter of accommodation from the Disability Services Office in the beginning of the semester.

Classroom Policies

You are expected to arrive on time with the appropriate materials, and to stay for the entire class period. Using cell phones, text messaging, doing homework for other courses, web surfing, and reading newspapers or other unrelated materials are prohibited during this class. Talking with other students, except during group discussion times, is disruptive and rude. If you need clarification, please raise your hand and ask me. If you engage in one of the prohibited activities and it is disrupting the class, you will be asked to leave and will not have the opportunity make up any missed points.

Course Schedule

Please note that this schedule is subject to change. You should regularly attend class and check the class website for an up-to-date schedule.

Date	Topic	Reading
Week 1 (Jan. 9)	Introduction to Earth Science	Ch 1
Week 2 (Jan. 14-16)	Earth Science Tools Energy from the Sun & Seasons	Ch 1 Ch 2
Week 3 (Jan. 21-23)	<i>No class 1/21</i> Energy from the Sun & Seasons The Atmosphere <i>Quiz 1 (January 23-28)</i>	Ch 2 Ch 3
Week 4 (Jan. 28-30)	The Atmosphere Earth's Energy Balance <i>Quiz 2 (January 30-February 4)</i>	Ch 3 Ch 4
Week 5 (Feb. 4-6)	Global Temperatures <i>Exam 1 (February 6)</i>	Ch 5
Week 6 (Feb. 11-13)	Atmospheric and Oceanic Circulation <i>Quiz 3 (February 13-18)</i>	Ch 6
Week 7 (Feb. 18-20)	Water and Atmospheric Moisture	Ch 7
Week 8 (Feb. 25-27)	Weather <i>Quiz 4 (February 27-March 3)</i>	Ch 8
Spring Break	Spring Break	
Week 9 (Mar. 10-12)	Global Climate Systems and Climate Change <i>Weather Journals due March 10</i>	Ch 10 Climate Change reading
Week 10 (Mar. 17-19)	<i>Exam 2 (March 17)</i> Water Resources	Ch 9
Week 11 (Mar. 24-26)	Water Resources River Systems <i>Quiz 5 (March 26-31)</i>	Ch 9 Ch 11
Week 12 (Mar. 31-Apr. 2)	River Systems Oceans	Ch 11 Ch 12
Week 13 (Apr. 7-9)	Coastal Processes and Landforms <i>Quiz 6 (April 9-14)</i>	Ch 12
Week 14 (Apr. 14-16)	Soils	Ch 13
Week 15 (Apr. 21-23)	Ecosystems <i>Quiz 7 (April 23-28)</i>	Ch 14
April 28	Biomes & A Changing World <i>Take a Hike Assignments due April 28</i>	Ch 15-16
Final Exam: Wednesday, May 7 th , 11:00 am to 1:45 pm		