GEOS 170C1-001
LIFE ON EARTH
Spring, 2015

Professor Owen Davis, Office Hrs MW 2:00, GLD-S 344, odavis@email.arizona.edu, (621-7953) 621-6000

Welcome to GEOS 170C1 - Life on Earth! In this course, you will learn about biological systems, from molecular to global. You will gain firsthand knowledge about the processes of scientific investigation and communication. You will gain a basic understanding of biological systems, how biological systems are studied and how biological systems change. Our goal is to prepare you to understand and evaluate the continuing developments and controversies in biological that affect your life.

You are responsible for reading, understanding and following all the information in this syllabus, and other written and verbal instructions given in this class.

GENERAL POLICIES

1. Learn Biology!
Attend all lectures and workshops on time, complete the readings before lecture, and complete all assignments as soon as they are available.

2. Don't Cheat!
Your grade must reflect your understanding of biology. Cheating prevents learning, makes your grade meaningless, and hurts your classmates. Read University Code of Academic Integrity (link). All the material you submit must be entirely your own words, written for this class and not handed in for any other class, including previous sessions of NATS104/GEOS 170C1. “Life on Earth.” Copying material from any source is cheating unless it is in quotation marks followed by a citation. Cheating also includes giving your assignments to another person to copy, because it causes that student's grade not to reflect their understanding of biology. Cheating will result in the sanctions determined by Dean of Students Kendall Washington White kwashing@email.arizona.edu.

3. Be Prepared!
Assigned material including instructions and readings are due before class starts. Prepare for exams by attempting as many D2L practice exams as possible. Don't put anything off to the last minute. D2L assignments are available for several days. Complete them as soon as they become available. Printed copies emailed or delivered to the instructors do not constitute on-time submission for materials assigned to be submitted electronically. Attendance is required; don't be tardy, the class starts on the hour and end 10 minutes before the hour. See “attendance” below.

4. Be Responsible!
You are responsible for understanding and following all of the rules outlined in this syllabus.
You are responsible for bringing a pencil and eraser to the exams.

Do not disrupt class by talking, by using your cell phone, or by using your laptop (except in assigned areas, if designated)

- Never behave in a threatening manner. This is a very serious infraction (UA policy).
- Sleeping during lecture is rude, you will not receive full attendance credit if you sleep in class.
- Email Requirements: Always put "GEOS 170C1" in the subject line of emails to us, and always use your UA email account in all communications particularly when setting up and interacting with D2L, TurnItIn and other GEOS 170C1 internet programs. Retain all of the previous text in emails regarding ongoing issues. If you cite an issue that involves persons other than the email recipient, be sure to include them in the cc line. Our policy is to add their addresses to replies involving those persons.
- Check your grades frequently on D2L and report any discrepancies within two weeks of the due-date for the material.

CLASS WEB PAGE, AND READINGS

The GEOS 170C1 D2L home page includes CURRENT ANNOUNCEMENTS and a schedule that outlines the topics that we will cover in lecture and in the workshops, and provides links to the online reading assignments. The assigned readings are due before lecture.

You may email us at any time (see D2L home page for email addresses) and we will get back to you as soon as possible. We strongly encourage you to use email to ask for clarification about the course material, to make appointments, or for any questions relating to class.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is required. The lecture notes and readings are available online, but neither gives the emphasis and explanations provided in lecture. By missing lectures, you will miss additions, corrections and clarifications made in lecture. You will also lose attendance credit, monitored by assigned seating. You will be marked absent (-2 points) if you are not in your assigned seat; and lose 1 pt if you are tardy, or leave early, unless you provide documentation (link). Disruption by use of your cell phone or laptop also result in loss of attendance credit. Illness-related, family-emergency and academically-sanctioned absences must be explained in writing. Include documentation (student health receipt, airplane ticket, gas receipt) verifying your illness or location of travel, with an explanation of the family emergency or academically-sanctioned event. (This section re-inserted 2/12/15) If you wish to change your seat, email the (instructor).

"Don't put things off to the last minute." If you will miss a lecture, workshop or exam you must either notify Prof. Davis in writing (by email) in advance, or afterward submit written documentation for a valid excuse. Valid excuses are limited to major health-related emergencies (read MORBYMORT) or academically-sanctioned absences (requires Dean-of-Students' written excuse). Make-ups for missed exams will be D2L practice exams taken the Prof. Davis’ office, within one week of the missed exam.

Academic Contestants, Student Athletes, Greek Life, Special Needs (DRC): Every student in this class has the same opportunities and obligations. "Dean's excuses" issued for sporting or academic events do not remove responsibility for assignments, and do not excuse late submission unless the excuse covers the entire period the exercise is available. See UA Policy (link). Athletes or pledges who need a grade report must bring that request to Prof. Davis during office hours or after class. Students needing special testing accommodations (DRC) must register with Prof. Davis in the first week of class.
GRADERS

The material has been selected so that an average student, doing an average amount of work, can get a "C," or if they work hard an "A." This includes the guidelines under "GENERAL POLICIES" in this syllabus and "EXAMS" below. **Don't put things off to the last minute.** Students who already know the material in GEOS 170C1 should contact Prof. Davis, regarding testing-out of the course (CLEP).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A=100-90%</th>
<th>B=89-80%</th>
<th>C=79-70%</th>
<th>D=69-60%</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lecture Exams (100 pts. ea. x 3 exams)</td>
<td>300 pts.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>D2L LectureQuizzes (5 pts. ea. x 12 / 13)</td>
<td>60 pts.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Workshop Assignments (10 pts. ea. x 7 / 8)</td>
<td>70 pts.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Writing Assignments (50 pts. ea. x 2)</td>
<td>100 pts.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance (2 pts. each class, 80 pt. minimum)</td>
<td>80 pts.</td>
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<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>610 pts.</td>
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READ UofAz Code of Academic Integrity

Grades for most assignments are posted on D2L upon completion of the exercise, but some exercises require additional grading by the GTAs. The official grades are kept offline. **There is no curve,** the grades will be awarded strictly on the basis of the percentages given in the table above. Extra-credit exercises may be given under exceptional circumstances, but only to the entire class, never to one student of a select group of students.

**LECTURE EXAMS**

Our emphasis is on learning, not on testing. The purpose of the exams is to evaluate each student's understanding of all material presented in GEOS 170C1, not to reward students for memorizing a portion of this material. **All of the material is important,** not just one or two figures or tables; this includes the assigned readings, the lectures and the D2L assignments. Each of the three lecture exams will include up to 50 questions, for a total of 100 points on each exam. You must be in your assigned seat to take the exam. No exam will be handed out after the first student to finish the exam has handed in their exam. The third 100-pt exam is given in the first hour of the regularly-scheduled exam period.

**D2L LECTURE QUIZZES**

5-point multiple-choice D2L quizzes cover the lecture material. Missed opportunities will dropped as a lowest score.

**WORKSHOP ASSIGNMENTS**

UA Tier-One classes are writing-emphasis classes. The workshop/homework exercises will include both in-class exercises and online D2L exercises. Both will provide an opportunity to learn in a "hands-on" way the major themes of GEOS 170C1. The workshops offer exposure to the scientific process, including research methods, analysis and compilation of data, library research, scientific debate, and the writing of research reports and papers. **Don't put things off to the last minute.**
WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

GEOS 170C1 includes two writing assignments: an “experiment report” in the first of the semester and a “science in the news” report due soon after the second 100-point exam. Both are worth 50 points. **Both must be entirely your own words written for this class, only, and not handed in for any other class, including previous sessions of “Life on Earth.”** Copied text is prohibited, unless it is in quotation marks, followed by a formal citation in the style accepted for GEOS 170C1, Life on Earth.

**Ghostwriting**

It is a violation of the UA [Code of Academic Integrity](#) for you to use the services of a ghostwriter who in any way changes the wording of your written submissions. It is plagiarism if you copy-and-paste into your written submissions any text written by another person, **unless it is in quotation marks followed by a citation.**

**TurnItIn.com**

If you decide to take or continue in this course, you are agreeing to submit your writing assignments online, when so instructed, to TurnItIn.com via the D2L dropbox. When you submit your file to the D2L dropbox, make sure you follow the instructions regarding file types that D2L provides. You should note that TurnItIn.com - always without your name and any personal information - will retain your paper as part of their database so that students who plagiarize from it can be detected. Because of this procedure, the vast majority of you who do your own work and cite your sources of information properly will not have to compete with students who commit undetected plagiarism. Anyone who has questions or problems with TurnItIn.com may discuss them privately with the instructor.

**CELL-PHONES & LAPTOPS:**

Student-owned cell-phones and laptops should be **turned off** before class starts (except laptops in assigned areas). Do not text-message during class. **If you wish to change your seat** in order to use your computer contact Prof. Davis (odavis@email....)

Like other universities, the UA does not allow laptops in introductory classes, because of their negative results ([Chronical of Higher Education 1/27/07](#)). Laptops, tablets and cell phones distract students from the lecture because are also used in class for email, web surfing, and inappropriate content. Laptops do have the potential benefits, particularly students with vision and hearing special needs. Any student who needs an electronic device and will agree to use it only for lecture material and notes should contact Prof. Davis in writing (odavis@email...) to be assigned seating at the tables in the back of the classroom or in the front row, reserved for use of laptops.

See also the Geoscience Department Guidelines for Academic Integrity [link](#).

Changes may be made to this syllabus, **additions and revisions will be highlighted in green.**

This syllabus conforms with [UA Policy](#)

Revised by OKD 01/29/2015
A=100-90%  B=89-80%  C=79-70%  D=69-60%

Lecture Exams (100 pts. ea. x 3 exams)                           300 pts.
D2L LectureQuizzes Quizzes (5 pts. ea. x 12 / 13)                60 pts.
Workshop Assignments (10 pts. ea. x 7 / 8)                      70 pts.
Writing Assignments (50 pts. ea. x 2)                           100 pts.
Attendance (2 pts. each class, 80 pt. minimum)                  80 pts.

TOTAL 610 pts.