

GEOS 170A1 *Earth: From Birth to Death?*

Facilitator: Dr. Martin Pepper, online video instruction developed by Dr. Jessica Kapp

Dr. Pepper's Office: UA Main Campus, Gould Simpson Bldg Room 344

Email anytime with questions or post to d2l discussion board - Dr. P will check both frequently

Contact info: mpepper@email.arizona.edu

Course Objectives: This course gives an introduction to the natural processes on Earth and how we are modifying some of these. In addition, this course will illustrate how the human caused changes on the Earth (some permanent) will affect us in the near future.

Learning outcomes: By the end of this online course students should:

- Understand large processes from plate tectonics to ocean circulation and our changing atmosphere.
- Comprehend how some these processes are changing by our actions and how they will affect us in the near future with the decisions we make today.

W eek	Dates	Topic
1	W 1/15-W 1/22	Anthropocene, State of the Earth Today
2	W 1/22-W 1/29	Earth Surface Materials & Processes/Weathering and Erosion/Carbon Cycle
3	W 1/29-W 2/5	Intro to Tectonics/Hazards and Disasters (Natural and Unnatural)
4	W 2/5-W 2/12	Oceans – Circulation/Temp/Salinity/Acidity and Relation to Earth's Climate
5	W 2/12- W 2/19	Fresh Water / Groundwater
6	W 2/19-W 2/26	Climate Change – Greenhouse Effect/Global Warming

7	W 2/26-W 3/4	Fossil Fuels/Alternative Energy Forms/Nuclear Debate
Paper	Due by Wed 3/4	Topics listed under Content - choose one First drafts due no later than Wed 2/13 if you want feedback
Final Exam	Due by Fri 3/6	Final Exam will happen at the end of week 7

Your course grade is distributed as follows:

Organization of Units

Each unit is organized as a Week (Week 1, Week 2, etc). We begin on a Wednesday, Jan 15, so units are from Wednesday to Wednesday. Quizzes and assignments for each week will always open at 6 am on the first day of the unit (Wednesday). Quizzes will remain open all semester, but assignments (including discussion board requirements) will close at midnight on the following Wednesday. It is your responsibility to turn in all assignments and post to the discussion board before the deadline the following week, or you will not receive credit. There are no make ups on work that isn't posted on time - you have a full week to get it done at your leisure.

Weekly Overview

For each unit, start with the Overview. It lists all requirements for completing the weekly unit. You will see lists of Readings and Lectures, Assignments, and Quizzes/Exams.

Assessment	Percentage of Course Grade
Discussion board	10%
Quizzes	20%
Assignments	30%
Paper	15%
Exam	25%

Discussion Board

For each unit you will be required to post at least one thing to the discussion board. You may also be asked to read and respond to other students' posts. These are part of your grade (see above) so please engage in the discussion. See the Overview each week, under Assignments, for discussion board requirements. You are free to express your ideas, but refrain from using offensive language or profanity, or making personal attacks on your fellow students. The

discussion board is part of the learning environment - please use it respectfully. Discussion board participation is worth 10% of your course grade.

Quizzes

For each unit, you will have at least one quiz related to the required lecture videos. The best way to do well on the quizzes is to watch the videos. You can work through the quizzes in whatever order you choose, but each one relates to a certain video, and are listed in the same order as the videos they relate to. You will get two attempts on each quiz, and your highest score will automatically count toward your final grade. Quizzes will open at 5 am on the Wednesday (first day) of the unit they pertain to, and remain open until Wednesday, March 4, at midnight. That means you can go back and take/retake your quizzes any time throughout the 7.5 week course (remember, you get two attempts). THERE WILL BE NO MAKE UPS ON QUIZZES ONCE THEY CLOSE AT MIDNIGHT ON MARCH 4TH. Quizzes are worth 20% of your course grade.

Assignments

Assignments can vary from week to week. They will include worksheets to be submitted to the Assignments Submission Folder, articles to read and perhaps write about or post about on the discussion board, commenting on other students' discussion board posts, and watching supplemental videos. Assignments will open at 5 am on the Wednesday (first day) of the unit they pertain to and will need to be turned in/completed no later than midnight on the following Wednesday. That is to ensure that I have enough time to grade assignments as we move through the course, and so that all student discussions on the discussion board are moving along. You will be able to see discussions all semester, but posts will only count if completed within the one- week time window for each weekly unit (Wednesday-Wednesday). Assignments are worth 30% of your course grade.

Paper

This course includes one research paper that is due no later than Wednesday, March 4th. Topics to choose from are listed under Content. Instructions for the paper are also listed under Content. You will have an opportunity to get feedback on a first draft if you turn in your draft, via email directly to Dr. Pepper, no later than Wednesday, Feb 19th. The paper is worth 15% of your course grade.

Exam

There will be one final exam given at the end of the 7.5 week course. It will include material from the entire course. The best study guides will be the learning outlines provided at the top of the list of each unit's materials. The exam will be administered in a proctored online environment, you will be required to show ID before you take the exam. Cheating on the final exam will result in failure of the course, and will be reported to the UA Dean of Students office.

More details about the final exam will be posted on d2l as the date approaches. The final exam is worth 25% of your grade.

Grading Philosophy

- - I do not grade on a curve.
- - I do not offer make-ups on any graded work as you have a week to turn in assignments,

and quizzes remain open for the entire course.
- - You can check your grades on d2l any time - check your grades regularly and contact me

with any questions or concerns.
- - **If you have questions about a grade, please raise them within ONE WEEK of the grade being posted on d2l. After one week grades will stand and no changes will be made. This course moves quickly, and any grade disputes need to be handled ASAP .**
- - No extra credit opportunities will be given at the end of the semester, and no alternative assignments or work will be given to “boost” your grade. Stay on top of it!
- - Once the course is over (March 6), no more grade changes will be made.

Note: To get an A in the class you must earn at least 90%. No exceptions.

Your final grade for the course (3 units) is based on the following grand total scores:

90% = A, 80% = B, 70% = C, 60% = D, less than 60% = E

Important note: I will not assign incompletes in this class. If you will not be able to complete the work, please drop or withdraw from the class and try again in a future semester.

Academic Integrity

<http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/codeofacademicintegrity>

Please read the Code of Academic Integrity at the website provided above.

A student shall be guilty of violating the Code and be subject to penalties if he/she:

- 1. Represents the work of others as his/her own.**
- 2. Uses or obtains unauthorized assistance in any academic work.**

3. Gives unauthorized assistance to another student.
4. Modifies, without faculty approval, an examination, paper, record or report for the purpose of obtaining additional credit.
5. Turns in work he/she completed with another students' name on it.
6. Uses another student's clicker or has another student use their clicker for them.

Written assignments you submit for this course are to be strictly in your own words. Plagiarism is any attempt to present another person's work as your own, including words from a website. Do not cut and paste information from a website!

ALL cases of cheating will be referred to the Dean of Students, and may result in failure of the class.

Students with Disabilities:

- If you need disability-related accommodations, please register with Disability Resources (621-3268; drc.arizona.edu).

Other Sources of Help and Information

- The Department of Geosciences main office is room 208 Gould-Simpson, 621-6000. 📄 The Geosciences Department website is <http://www.geo.arizona.edu>.
- Think Tank offers free drop in tutoring, review sessions, or private scheduled tutoring for a fee. See the website for details: <http://www.studentaffairs.arizona.edu/thinktank>

Policy on threatening behavior:

The University seeks to promote a safe environment where students and employees may participate in the educational process without compromising their health, safety or welfare. The Arizona Board of Regents' Student Code of Conduct, ABOR Policy 5-308, prohibits threats of physical harm to any member of the University community, including to one's self. Threatening behavior can harm and disrupt the University, its community and its families.

SYLLABUS SUBJECT TO CHANGE - CHECK D2L OFTEN FOR UPDATES.