

Course Syllabus

ESC1000 Introduction to Earth Science - Online Version

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[Link to pdf with instructions for registering for McGraw-Hill Connect using IncludEd - this is required for all students!](#)  **

Course goals

Earth is dynamic planet that is continually being reshaped by forces generated within the Earth's interior and by processes operating in both the oceans and atmosphere. In this course we will explore the fundamental processes that occur within each of these domains as well as the interactions between them.

Due dates

This is the link to the schedule of material and due dates for ALL activities: [ESC1000 2015F Schedule & Due](#)

[Dates.xls](#)  . Due dates for LearnSmart activities and Quizzes are also shown on the MH Connect site. Due dates for activities not done through MH Connect (Assignments, Concept sketches, & Group Assignment) are also shown at the bottom of this page.

Additional note on due dates Due to the variation in amount and difficulty of content between modules, the amount of time for each module (& sub-module) varies. I have tried to assess the amount of material and adjust the length of time for each activity accordingly. Because there is no set day of the week for deadlines, you will need to pay close attention to due dates for assignments. All material will be due at 11:59 pm on the due date. Furthermore, all material for each Module/Sub-Module is due at the same time (LearnSmart, Quiz, Assignments). This gives you maximum flexibility, but also means that you must budget your time efficiently. You will not have success by starting the materials the evening that it is all due!

Course materials & structure

The course consists of eleven modules. The material for each module consists largely of textbook reading and video lectures, with supplemental information provided by additional PDFs and websites. The Modules do not, in many cases, simply equate to textbook chapters; the content in each module may consist of sections from different chapters of a related subject. For each module you will do at least one LearnSmart activity and take at least one online quiz; both of these activities are done through the [McGraw-Hill Connect site](#). There will be seven assignments, which are the Investigations at the end of the textbook chapters, but I have added/modified some material to a couple of these assignments. There will be three "exams" that will consist of two concept sketches. Lastly, you have one group project that you will complete with a group of four students. Each of these activities is discussed in more detail below. Your final grade will be assigned based on the total number of points earned from all of these activities. The point values for each activity are as follows:

280 pts. LearnSmart activities *Done through MH Connect*

260 pts. Online quizzes *Done through MH Connect*

230 pts. Assignments (7) Will be posted to the appropriate module as a pdf/word documents

150 pts. Concept sketch "exams" (3) Available in Canvas Assignments link

80 pts. Group Project (1)

TOTAL = 1000 pts. Scroll to the bottom of the page for letter-grade assignments

Descriptions of all assignments and activities, as well as submission instructions, are detailed below
Download the file explaining the suggested approach to the material and activities in this class

[Suggested Approach.pdf](#)  

Textbook and required reading: *Exploring Earth Science*, by Reynolds and Johnson, 1st Edition. This is a unique textbook designed to help you learn Earth-science concepts and processes on your own. Nearly all the information in the book is built around illustrations and photographs, rather than being in long blocks of text. The entire book consists of a series of two-page spreads organized into chapters. Each two-page spread is a self-contained block of information about a specific topic and has a short list indicating what you should be able to do before you leave these pages. The items from these lists, for which you will be held responsible for knowing, are compiled into an "Objectives" or "What-To-Know" list for each module (see below). Required reading for each module is listed within each Module's page here on Canvas, along with the list of objectives in each chapter's What-To-Know List. *Although the highlighted yellow text covers many of the important concepts, it is expected that you read the entire sections so that you can answer the questions in the Objectives list* (Note that the yellow turns to green once you correctly answer the questions on that material in LearnSmart). Each two-page spread (or section) in the book has a unique number (e.g., 12.4), and these numbers are referenced for quizzes and other course activities. Each chapter ends with an investigation concerning a problem associated with a "virtual place" - some of these you will complete as the assignments for this course.

Objectives or What-to-Know list At the top of each module here on Canvas is a link to a word file containing the List of objectives for that module (also referred to as the what-to-know list). This list will serve as your guide as to what is important in the module and therefore you should have this list present as you go through your reading, etc. The items are listed by the sections (two-page spreads) in the textbook so it is easy to locate material. This list is derived from the "Before you leave this page..." at the end of each two-page spread. However, in some cases I have eliminated objectives and in some cases (particularly Module 2) I have added some. This is the material you are expected to know for the quizzes. I have provided the lists for each module as Word files to give you the ability to add spaces and fill in answers.

Graded Activities

(1) LearnSmart The goal of LearnSmart is to help you learn the topics presented in each assignment by asking you a series of questions that guide you through the material you need to learn; LearnSmart activities should be done after much of the reading. There is a total of 14 LearnSmart activities. Some modules have two in which case they are labeled a and b; e.g., 2a and 2b. The Learnsmart activities combine for a total of 280 pts. - most are worth 20 points, while a couple longer ones are worth 30 pts. and a few shorter ones are worth 10 pts. Twelve LearnSmart (LS) activities are worth 20 pts. each and two others (4a and 10b, which are much shorter) are worth 10 pts. each for a total of 260 pts. I apologize for this, but as currently configured it is not possible to combine LS from different chapters. LearnSmart activities are done through the [https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/318066/modules/items/5888161McGraw-Hill Connect site](https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/318066/modules/items/5888161McGraw-Hill%20Connect%20site). Note that there may be some material in LearnSmart that may not be in the objectives because either all or none of the material in a particular textbook section must be included. Your reading, combined with LearnSmart is your main way of learning the basic material. *I strongly recommend that you do much of the reading (while addressing the objectives) prior to beginning LearnSmart (rather than simply looking up each question as it comes up). This will allow you to tie things together and see the bigger picture and better prepare you for quizzes, assignments, etc.. The LearnSmart can then be used as a lower-level practice quiz and you will complete the LearnSmart in a shorter period of time.*

LearnSmart Logistics - From the MH Connect home page for the course, you can begin the LearnSmart (LS) activity by either clicking the title (e.g., LS 1 Introductory Topics) or by clicking the gray arrow on the right. On the left this is referred to as practice, but these are the LS points that you will earn. As you go through the activity, the progress bar at the bottom tells you how many items you have left. As you answer questions correctly, this number is reduced. Once you have zero items left, you have completed the LS activity and you have earned all of the points assigned for the activity (e.g., 20 points for LS 1). each question also provides a link to the part of the textbook that addresses the material in the question.

(2) Quizzes The goal of the quizzes is to test you on the basic material that you learned through your reading and LearnSmart activities. There will be 13 quizzes during the semester with each quiz consisting of 20-25 questions. Most modules will have one quiz, but modules two and four will have two each. You may use your textbook and /or notes, however, the quizzes will be timed (typically 30-40 minutes each). Thus, you will need to study and know

much of the material ahead of time because you will not have time to look up each answer for the first time during the quizzes. The material from the quizzes is derived directly from the objectives list and questions are a step up from LearnSmart in terms of depth of understanding. ONCE YOU BEGIN A QUIZ THE TIME CONTINUES TO RUN regardless of whether hit "save and finish later" or do anything else!! So be sure you have the time to go through the entire quiz before beginning. Also, only take quizzes using a reliable computer and network connection!

(3) Assignments The goal of the assignments is to have you apply the knowledge gained in the other activities in a way that ties together different content of the module. There will be seven assignments during the semester (not every module has an assignment). These assignments will be the Investigations found at the end end of each chapter, although they may be modified in some cases. These will be available through the appropriate module in Canvas as pdf and/or word files. You will need to read and refer to the investigation two-page spread in your textbook (and in some cases other materials) while completing the investigation. You can use your textbook and notes and you can collaborate with other classmates, but your work that you turn in must be your own. Each investigation requires using most of the information you learned from the chapter, so it is suggested that you do the investigation after completing most of the other activities for that module. Investigations are challenging (but fun) because you must reason, based on what you learned from the chapter, how to solve a geologic problem; thus, the answers to investigation questions are not found directly in the textbook word for word. **Submission of assignments** - First, if you are asked to draw on the document then you either need to print it and draw by hand or find a way to draw on it electronically (your choice). Second, you will need to scan a copy of your completed assignment to create a pdf or jpg. You will submit the file by clicking on the *Assignments* link in Canvas, which takes you to a list of all assignments. Click on the appropriate assignment (be sure to click the correct assignment!) then hit the *Submit* button. From there you can simply upload your file (the allowable file types are specified there).

(4) Concept Sketch "Exams" The goal of the concept sketches is to self-teach yourself a small number of concepts through reading, which requires you to be able to summarize material from the book and separate important fundamental information from minor details. You will have three "exams" during the semester, with each consisting of the construction of two concept sketches. You can read about concept sketches in section 1.6 (p.15) of your book and a video showing the construction of an example concept sketch is available through the following link: [Example Concept Sketch.m4v](#)  [Click to view](#) Here is one more example that shows the process of concept sketch construction from start to finish: [Concept Sketch Example- Transform.pdf](#)  . The concept sketches will require that you learn about a smaller number of topics in greater depth than can be covered by the quizzes and LearnSmart. A list of possible topics and detailed instructions will be given will be provided via Canvas announcements, but will also be available through the *Assignments* link in Canvas. **Submission of Concept Sketches** - First, you will need to scan a copy of your completed sketches to create a pdf or jpg. Each file must consist of two pages - one for each of the two sketches. You will submit the file by clicking on the *Assignments* link in Canvas, which takes you to a list of all assignments, including the Concept Sketches. Click on the appropriate Concept Sketch assignment (be sure to click the correct assignment!) then hit the *Submit* button. From there you can simply upload your file (the allowable file types are specified there). [General rubric for concept sketches](#)  

(5) Group Project In addition to these activities, you will also complete a group project, in which you will work in a group of four students on a topic to be announced. A detailed description of the project can be accessed through the [Assignments](#) link here on Canvas. You may choose your own groups through the People link here on Canvas.

[Rubric - Volcano Newscast Group Project.docx](#)  

Additional information: On the [Home > Start Here: Welcome to ESC1000](#) - Introduction to Earth Science! links you can find a tutorial video on using Canvas, as well as additional information such as where to get technical help and recommended notification settings. There is also a welcome video on this page.

Letter-grade assignments

A	90 - 100%
A-	88 - 90
B+	85 - 88
B	80 - 85
B-	78-80
C+	75 - 78
C	70 - 75
C-	68 -70
D+	65 - 68
D	60 - 65