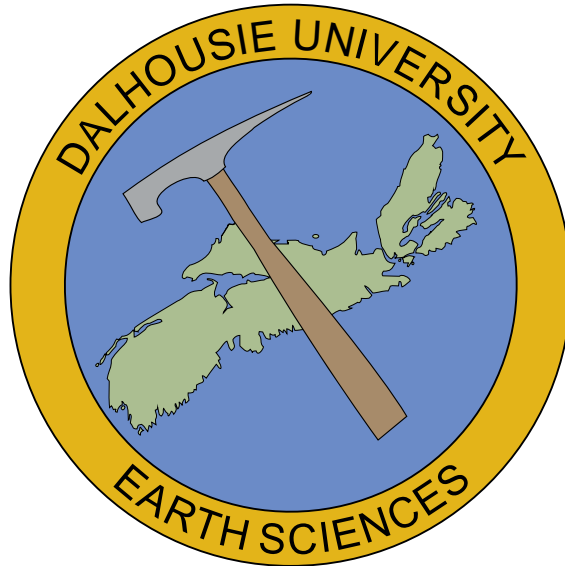


A Student's Guide to Earth Sciences

at Dalhousie University



In this guide, you will find information about:

- University Requirements
- First-Year Requirements
- Major in Earth Sciences (120-credit hour)
- Double-Major with Earth Sciences
- Honours in Earth Sciences
- Combined Honours in Earth Sciences
- Minor in Earth Sciences
- Minor in Geography
- Co-op in Earth Sciences
- Certificates
- Knowledge Requirements for Professional Geoscience Registration in Canada





University Requirements

General Degree Requirements

The University mandates that students in a BA or BSc program must meet specific requirements to complete their degree. In addition to degree requirements, each Program (e.g., Earth Sciences) has a set of requirements necessary to complete the program. It is important to know both the degree and program requirements to ensure successful completion of a degree. For a full list of University requirements, please check the **Academic Calendar**.

Subject Groupings

Course offerings within the College of Arts and Science are placed into three subject groupings: (1) **Languages and Humanities**, (2) **Social Sciences**, and (3) **Life and Physical Sciences**. All BA and BSc programs must include a minimum of **6-credit hours** from each of the three subject groupings.

Writing Course Requirements

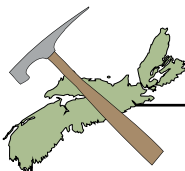
An approved writing course or set of courses is required for all BA and BSc degrees. It is recommended that students complete the writing requirement early in their programs, preferably in their first year of study. The Writing Course may also be used to satisfy one of the subject groupings. See Academic Calendar for list of approved courses and course combinations.

Math Requirements (BSc)

A minimum of **6-credit hours** in mathematics or statistics are required for all **BSc programs**. See Academic Calendar for list of approved courses.

Language Requirements (BA)

BA students are required to obtain **6-credit hours** in a language course or set of courses. See Academic Calendar for list of approved courses.



Pro Tip:

Use the **Degree Audit Reporting System (DARS)** on DalOnline, to ensure you're on track for graduation. DARS will show you all the requirements you need for your degree; identifying those you've met and those you have yet to complete.




First-Year Requirements

All Earth Sciences programs (e.g., BSc, BA, Honours, Double-Major, etc.) have the same program requirements for the first-year. *Remember to check the Academic Calendar for University requirements for all BA and BSc degrees.*

1000-level Program Requirements

- Geology I (ERTH 1080)
- Geology II (ERTH 1090 or 1091)
- Chemistry I (CHEM1011)
- Chemistry II (CHEM1012)
- Calculus (MATH1000 *(recommended)* or MATH1215)
- One other half credit in Mathematics or Statistics
- *Note: students in the Dalhousie Integrated Science Program (DISP) should consult a program advisor in Earth Sciences regarding first-year equivalencies.*



Pro Tip:

We recommend students **declare their major** in winter term of their first year. Head to DalOnline to easily declare your major and update it at any point throughout your degree.

Major in Earth Sciences (120-credit hour)

Program-specific requirements for BSc and BA students are listed below.

1000-level Program Requirements

- EARTH 1080 and EARTH 1090 (or 1091)
- CHEM 1011 and CHEM 1012
- MATH 1000
- One other MATH or STAT course (BSc students)

2000-level Program Requirements

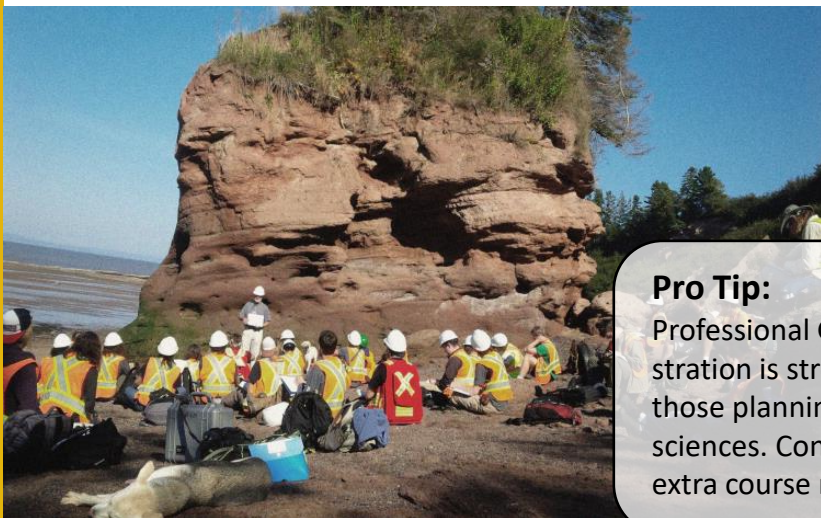
- EARTH 2001 – Mineralogy
- EARTH 2110 – Field Methods
- EARTH 2203 – Sediments and Sedimentology
- EARTH 2002 – Introduction to Petrology
- EARTH 2380 – Geochemistry

3000/4000-level Program Requirements

- EARTH 3001 – Field School
- EARTH 3303 – Stratigraphy
- EARTH 3140 – Structural Geology

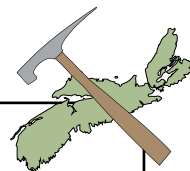
Additional Program Requirements

- BSc students must take an additional 18-credit hours of Earth Sciences courses, of which a minimum of 15-credit hours must be at the 3000- or 4000-level
- BA students must take an additional 12-credit hours of Earth Sciences courses at the 3000- or 4000-level



Pro Tip:

Professional Geoscience (PGeo) Registration is strongly encouraged for those planning a career in the geosciences. Consult page 11 for a list of extra course requirements for PGeo.





Double-Major in Earth Sciences (120-credit hour)

Students may take a degree that combines a Major in Earth Sciences with another subject, such as Ocean Sciences or Physics. If electing to complete a Double-Major, students must select one subject as the primary and one as the secondary. Requirements are the same whether Earth Sciences is selected as the primary or secondary subject.

1000-level Program Requirements

- EARTH 1080 and EARTH 1090 (or 1091)
- CHEM 1011 and CHEM 1012
- MATH 1000 and one other Math or Stats course

2000-level Program Requirements

- EARTH 2001 – Mineralogy
- EARTH 2110 – Field Methods
- EARTH 2203 – Sediments and Sedimentology
- EARTH 2002 – Introduction to Petrology
- EARTH 2380 – Geochemistry

3000/4000-level Program Requirements

- EARTH 3001 – Field School
- EARTH 3303 – Stratigraphy
- EARTH 3140 – Structural Geology
- Additional 9-credit hours of 3000/4000-level Earth Sciences courses



Pro Tip:

If you're **passionate about two topics** and can't decide, a double-major might be the option for you! But don't forget, you can also minor in a subject – an option that is more flexible for scheduling.



Students in Double Major programs should consult both departments when choosing courses. Exceptions to requirements may be made where justified by a student's particular subject combination.

Honours in Earth Sciences

Admission to the Honours program requires the approval of both the Department and the Registrar. Typically, students apply in January of their 3rd-year (after fall grades have been released).

Requirements for admission:

- Minimum GPA of 3.5 in Honours subject courses (2000-level and above), with no grade less than C

1000-level Program Requirements

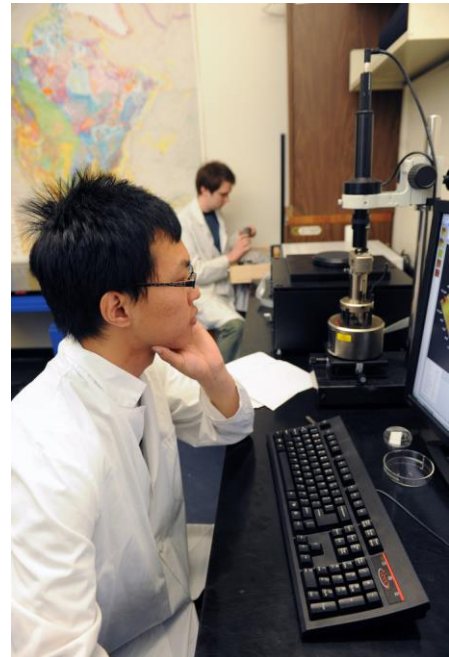
- EARTH 1080 and EARTH 1090 (or 1091)
- CHEM 1011 and CHEM 1012
- PHYC 1190 and PHYC 1290
- MATH 1000 and one other MATH or STAT course

2000-level Program Requirements

- EARTH 2001 – Mineralogy
- EARTH 2110 – Field Methods
- EARTH 2203 – Sediments and Sedimentology
- EARTH 2002 – Introduction to Petrology
- EARTH 2380 – Geochemistry
- EARTH 2270 – Introduction to Applied Geophysics

3000/4000-level Program Requirements

- EARTH 3001 – Field School
- EARTH 3303 – Stratigraphy
- EARTH 3140 – Structural Geology
- EARTH 4201 and EARTH 4202 – Honours Thesis
- Honours Qualifying Exam (Thesis Defense)
- Additional 21-credit hours of EARTH courses at or above the 2000-level, of which at least 15-credit hours must be at or above the 3000-level



Pro Tip:

Students should start searching for thesis projects and supervisors in their 3rd year. Some projects are advertised on the website or through the Honours Coordinator. But, it's best to contact potential supervisors directly and discuss your interests.





Combined Honours in Earth Sciences

Students may elect to complete a Combined Honours, combining Earth Sciences with another subject. If electing to complete a Combined Honours, students must select one subject as the primary and one as the secondary. Admission to the Honours program requires the approval of the Registrar and both Departments. Typically, students apply in January of their 3rd-year (after fall grades have been released). For a full list of University requirements for a Combined Honours degree, please see the Academic Calendar.

Requirements for admission:

- Minimum GPA of 3.5 in Honours subject courses (2000-level and above), with no grade less than C

1000-level Program Requirements

- EARTH 1080 and EARTH 1090 (or 1091)
- CHEM 1011 and CHEM 1012
- PHYC 1190 and PHYC 1290
- MATH 1000 and one other MATH or STAT course

2000-level Program Requirements

- EARTH 2001 – Mineralogy
- EARTH 2110 – Field Methods
- EARTH 2203 – Sediments and Sedimentology
- EARTH 2002 – Introduction to Petrology
- EARTH 2380 – Geochemistry
- EARTH 2270 – Introduction to Applied Geophysics

3000/4000-level Program Requirements (with EARTH as primary subject)

- EARTH 3001 – Field School
- EARTH 3303 – Stratigraphy
- EARTH 3140 – Structural Geology
- EARTH 4201 and EARTH 4202 – Honours Thesis
- Honours Qualifying Exam (Thesis Defense)
- Additional 3-credit hours of EARTH courses at or above the 3000-level

3000/4000-level Program Requirements (with EARTH as secondary subject)

- EARTH 3001 – Field School
- EARTH 3303 – Stratigraphy
- EARTH 3140 – Structural Geology
- Additional 9-credit hours of EARTH courses at or above the 3000-level





Minor in Earth Sciences

Students majoring in a subject other than Earth Sciences may choose to complete a minor in Earth Sciences. The minor is available to most students in a 120-credit hour Bachelor program. Alternately, a BSc or BA (90-credit hour) degree program with a Minor in Earth Sciences is available to students in the Faculty of Science.

- EARTH 1080 and EARTH 1090 (or 1091)
- Additional 18-credit hours in EARTH courses at the 2000-level or higher, of which at least 6-credit hours must be at the 3000-level or higher

Minor in Geography

The Geography minor is available to most students in a 120-credit hour Bachelor program. To fulfill the requirements, students must complete 24-credit hours.

- GEOG 1030, GEOG 1035, and GEOG 2000
- Additional 15-credit hours in GEOG courses at the 2000-level or higher, of which at least 6-credit hours must be at the 3000-level or higher
 - Consult the Academic Calendar for a list of approved courses for the Geography minor

Co-operative Educational Program (Science Co-op) in Earth Sciences (Additional to Program)

Science Co-op is a program of academic study in a science subject, combined with paid career-related work experience. Students undertake three work-terms interspersed with their academic study terms.

Science Co-op is available to students in BSc (120-credit hour) Honours or Major programs in Earth Sciences, or in Combined Honours or Double Major programs with Earth Sciences as the primary subject. Students normally apply to join Science Co-op during their first year of study. Students must apply before April 15, and it is strongly recommended that interested students meet with the Earth Sciences Co-op advisor early in the Winter term of their first year.



Certificates (Additional to Program)

Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

The GIS Certificate program provides training and experience in geographic information science as part of an undergraduate degree program, usually in Earth Sciences, Environmental Science or Biology, and prepares students for further study or employment in the area. The Certificate requires the completion of GIS-related courses and completion of a major project that involves work with geographic information systems and geomatics.

Mandatory Courses (minimum grade of B- in all courses)

- EARTH 3500/ENVS 3500/GEOG 3500 – Geoscience Information Management
- EARTH 4520/GEOG 4520 – GIS Applications to Environmental and Geological Science

Selectives

A minimum grade of B- in at least two of the following courses

- GEOG 2000 – Cartography
- GEOG 2006 – Space, Place and GIS
- BIOL 3633/ENVS 3633/GEOG 3633 – Spatial Information and GIS in Ecology
- EARTH 4530/GEOG 4530 – Environmental Remote Sensing
- ENVS 2100 – Environmental Informatics
- ENVS 3400/GEOG 3400 – Environment and Human Health

Research Project: Completion of a research project with an emphasis in geographic information science via one of the following sets of courses (minimum grade of B-). Research topics must be pre-approved by the Certificate Coordinator.

Set 1

- BIOL 4900/MARI 4900 or BIOL 4901/MARI 4902 – Honours Thesis
- ENVS 4901/ENVS 4902 – Honours Thesis
- EARTH 4101/ERTH 4102 – Research Project
- EARTH 4201/ERTH 4202 – Honours Thesis
- SUST 4800 – Independent Study
- SUST 4900 – Honours Thesis

Set 2

- EARTH 4850/ENVS 4850/BIOL 4850/ SCIE 4850/GEOG 4850 – Geographic Information Science Research Project

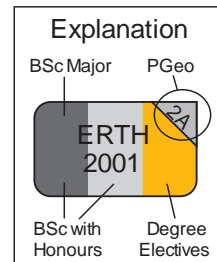


Pro Tip:

Although students enroll in the certificate programs in their 3rd or 4th year, it's a good idea to think about these in your 2nd year to ensure you've completed any necessary 2000-level courses.

Required Courses (Visual Guide)

The majority of our students tend to complete either the BSc Major or BSc Honours programs in Earth Sciences along with the requirements for Professional Geoscience Registration.



Year 1

Fall	ERTH 1080	CHEM 1011 ^{1A}	MATH 1000 ^{1A}	PHYC 1190 ^{1A}	Elective (Humanities/ Language)
Winter	ERTH 1090/1091	CHEM 1012 ^{1B}	MATH/ STATS Elective ^{1B}	PHYC 1290 ^{1B}	Elective* (Humanities/ Language)

*Total number of 1000-level credit-hours may not exceed 48 (16 courses). Conversely, minimum of 72 credit-hours required at 2000-level and higher.

Year 2

Fall	ERTH 2001 ¹ ^{2A}	ERTH 2110 ^{2C}	ERTH 2203 ^{2C}	Elective (PGeo Foundation Science) ^{1B}	Elective (Social Science)
Winter	ERTH 2002 ^{2C}	ERTH 2380 ^{2B}	ERTH 2270 ² ^{2B}	Elective (PGeo Foundation Science ³) ^{1B}	Elective (Social Science)

¹Prerequisites: EARTH 1080 and 1090, CHEM 1011 and 1012.

²Prerequisites: EARTH 1080, MATH1000, PHYC 1190 and PHYC 1290 (or equiv.)

³PGeo Group 1B subjects include Math, Chemistry, Physics, Statistics, Computer Programming, and Biology.

Years 3 & 4

	ERTH 3001 Field School ⁴ ^{2A}				
Fall	ERTH 3303 ^{2A}	ERTH Elective (>2999) ⁵ ^{2B}	ERTH Elective (>1999) ^{2C}	Elective	Elective
Winter	ERTH 3140 ^{2A}	ERTH Elective (>1999) ⁶ ^{2B}	Elective (PGeo Foundation Science) ^{1B}	Elective	Elective

⁴ERTH 3001 Field School is 14 days and usually runs at the end of August

⁴ERTH 4003 + 4004 Advanced Field School is 28 days and runs in May

⁵Consider in 3rd year for PGeo (2B):
- EARTH 3010 for Geology Stream, or
- EARTH 3701 for Env. Geo. Stream

⁶PGeo Group 2B requires five courses. Consult the GKE or dept checklist to determine the various course combinations to satisfy this category.

Years 3 & 4

Fall	ERTH Elective (>2999) ^{2C}	ERTH Elective (>2999) ^{2C}	ERTH 4201 ⁷ ^{2C}	Elective	Elective
Winter	ERTH Elective (>2999) ^{2C}	ERTH Elective (>2999) ⁶ ^{2B}	ERTH 4202 ⁷ ^{2C}	Elective	

⁷Honours thesis class. For acceptance:
- Min. GPA in EARTH of 3.5, and no grade lower than C
- Students generally find their own supervisor/project in Year 3.

Checklist for PGeo Knowledge Requirements for Dalhousie Earth Sciences students

Refer to the Professional Geoscience Knowledge and Experience (GKE) handbook while filling out this document.

<https://geoscientistscanada.ca/source/GC-Knowledge-Requ-BKLT--REV--EN--web--final-.pdf>

Group 1A and 1B Compulsory and Additional Foundation Science

Group 1A - Compulsory Foundation Science (3 courses*)

*course is equivalent to a 3-credit hour course. The GKE uses the term Education Unit (EU) which is also a 1 semester course.

Chemistry		e.g., CHEM 1011 or equivalent
Mathematics		e.g., MATH 1000 or equivalent; life sciences math (1215) not accepted
Physics		e.g., PHYC 1190 (or 1290) or equivalent; life sciences physics (1300) not accepted

Group 1B - Additional Foundation Science (total of 6 courses and no more than 2 courses in any one subject)

Chemistry		
Mathematics		
Physics		
Statistics		
Computer Programming		
Biology		

General notes on Group 1 courses:

- CHEM 1012, MATH 1010, and PHYC 1290 (or 1190) recommended
- Also recommended: STAT 1060 or 2060, STAT 2080, STAT 2450, MATH 1030, MATH 2300, PHYC 2050, CSCI 1105 or 1110, CSCI 2202
- Consult the GKE handbook for individual course descriptions to compare against Dal course descriptions.
- In general, only courses that count toward a Dalhousie BSc degree in that discipline are eligible in this category. Eg., PHYC 1451: Astronomy and PHYC 2800: Climate Change do not count.

Group 2A, 2B and 2C – Compulsory, Additional and Other Geoscience

Group 2A - Compulsory Foundation Geoscience (4 courses)

Field Practice		ERTH 3001 – Field School
Mineralogy and Petrology		ERTH 2001 – Mineralogy
Sedimentation and Stratigraphy		ERTH 3303 – Stratigraphy
Structural Geology		ERTH 3140 – Structural Geology

Notes:

Group 2B - Additional Foundation Geoscience (5 courses; min 1 & max 2 from each subgroup)

PGeo Geology Stream			PGeo Environmental Geoscience Stream		
Geochemistry		2380	Geochemistry		2380
Geophysics		2270	Geophysics		2270
Igneous Petrology		3010	Hydrology		3701
Metamorphic Petrology		3020	Hydrogeology		3401
Sedimentary Petrology		N/A	Engineering Geology		N/A
Sedimentology		2203	Geomorphology or Soil Science		3440
Geomorphology or Glacial Geology		3440	Glacial Geology		N/A
GIS		3500	GIS		3500

Group 2C - Other Geoscience (9 courses at the 2000-level or higher)

- Any EARTH course at or above the 2000-level that counts toward a BSc in EARTH
- Other courses may count as well. e.g., Oceanography, Paleobiology, Engineering
- Consult the GKE handbook for full list of options

Professional Geoscientist boards by province:

NS: <https://www.geoscientistsns.ca>

NL: <http://www.pegnl.ca>

ON: <https://www.pgo.ca>

SK: <https://www.apegs.ca>

BC: <https://www.egbc.ca>

NB: <https://www.apegnb.com>

QC: <http://www.ogq.qc.ca>

MB: <https://www.apegm.mb.ca>

AB: <https://www.apega.ca>

NWT & NU: <https://www.napeg.nt.ca>



My Plan

Year: _____

Fall term

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Winter term

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Year: _____

Fall term

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Winter term

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Year: _____

Fall term

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Winter term

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Year: _____

Fall term

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Winter term

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Year: _____

Fall term

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Winter term

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Notes: _____

ERTH Course Descriptions



ERTH 1030 Introduction to Physical Geography

CREDIT HOURS: 3

This non-lab science course examines the nature of weather and climate, earth's surface features and processes, and internal processes that contribute to landform development. An integral component of the course is an exploration of the representation and interpretation of physical geographic data through the examination of a variety of maps.

CROSSLISTED: GEOG 1030.03 PREREQUISITES: none

FORMATS: Lecture | Tutorial

ERTH 1060 Earthquakes, Volcanoes and Natural Disasters

CREDIT HOURS: 3

Earthquakes, meteorite impacts, rapid climate change, volcanic eruptions, hurricanes, landslides, solar flares, and floods are natural disasters that affect our economy, public policy, and safety. Where, why and how frequently do natural disasters occur? Are predictions possible? Are media portrayals of risk and damage realistic? This course, aimed at the nonspecialist, investigates these intriguing questions. Excerpts of "disaster films", in conjunction with lectures and discussions are used to identify the causes, consequences and sometimes erroneous perceptions of natural hazards. Examples from Atlantic Canada and contemporary disasters are used to assess local risk and real-time events worldwide.

CROSSLISTED: GEOG 1060.03 PREREQUISITES: none

FORMATS: Lecture

ERTH 1080 Geology I

CREDIT HOURS: 3

This course focuses on the solid earth (geosphere) and how it evolved throughout earth's vast history, and continues to evolve today. The processes involved are recorded in the rocks and minerals of our earth, and we explore these natural processes and materials as a way to understanding our earth. The course meets the needs of students who require a science course with a lab component, is a required prerequisite course for all Earth Science majors, and serves as an introduction for all those interested in Earth Science. No previous knowledge of geology is required.

FORMATS: Lecture | Lab PREREQUISITES: none

ERTH 1090 Geology II

CREDIT HOURS: 3

Earth systems introduced in Geology I are explored in greater detail, with an emphasis on change through time, earth resources, and on geologic systems that are connected to human actions. This course provides a strong background to pursue further work in the environmental sciences and is the required course for Earth Sciences majors.

PREREQUISITES: EARTH 1080 is a pre- or co-requisite for EARTH 1090 or EARTH 1091.

FORMATS: Lecture | Lab

FORMATS: *ERTH 1091* is the same course, but without a lab

ERTH 2001 Mineralogy

CREDIT HOURS: 3

Earth Materials Science I EARTH 2001 introduces the chemical/physical properties of minerals, their origins and distribution. Labs include mineral identification, crystal chemistry, crystallography, and optical mineralogy. X-ray diffraction and electron microprobe methods are introduced.

PREREQUISITES: EARTH 1080.03 (or SCIE 1505) and (EARTH 1090.03 or EARTH 1091.03) (or SCIE 1515 or SCIE 1530) and CHEM 1011.03/CHEM 1012.03 or CHEM 1021.03/CHEM 1022.03: Chemistry majors should consult the department. Students who have not taken CHEM 1011.03 (or equivalent) are encouraged to take this concurrently.

FORMATS: Lecture | Lab

ERTH 2002 Introduction to Petrology

CREDIT HOURS: 3

Through a thorough and systematic examination of hand specimens and thin sections, and the detailed description of mineral assemblages and textures, students will be able to formally classify a wide range of igneous, metamorphic and sedimentary rock types. Case studies representing the geology of Nova Scotia will also be presented.

PREREQUISITES: EARTH 2001.03 and CHEM 1011.03/CHEM 1012.03 or CHEM 1021.03/CHEM 1022.03

FORMATS: Lecture | Lab

ERTH 2020 Journey Through The Solar System

CREDIT HOURS: 3

An introduction to the geological features of the planets, asteroid belt, and major satellites of our solar system, and the current understanding as to their formation. The course uses the earth as an analog to compare the landforms, and both the measured and inferred geology of the solar system.

CALENDAR NOTES: There are no prerequisites, however a basic understanding of mathematics and the physical sciences is required.

RESTRICTIONS: Restricted from students in first year (E1).

FORMATS: Lecture | Online Delivery

ERTH 2110 Field Methods

CREDIT HOURS: 3

This is intended as an introduction to field techniques useful to the practicing geologist, particularly those concepts essential for the accurate field description and identification of rocks and the use and construction of geological maps. Computer techniques and elementary structural geology are also considered.

PREREQUISITES: EARTH 1080.03 (or SCIE 1505) and (EARTH 1090.03/1091.03)

RESTRICTIONS: Restricted to Majors in Earth Sciences

FORMATS: Lecture | Lab

ERTH 2203 Sediments and Sedimentary Rocks

CREDIT HOURS: 3

The course deals with physical, chemical and biological processes that generate modern sediments, and their conversion to sedimentary rocks through time. Labs provide a practical introduction to sediment analysis and to a range of sedimentary structures and rock types. Fieldwork may include description of beaches and bedrock in Nova Scotia.

PREREQUISITES: EARTH 1080.03 (or SCIE 1506.09/1507.09 or SCIE 1505.18) and (EARTH 1090.03 or EARTH 1091.03)

FORMATS: Lecture | Lab

ERTH 2270 Introduction to Applied Geophysics

CREDIT HOURS: 3

An introduction to using physical principles to explore the Earth's subsurface, with an emphasis on near-surface applications. Topics include seismic, gravity, magnetic, electrical, and electromagnetic surveying techniques, and their application in prospecting, hydrogeology, environmental assessments, and well-logging. The geophysics field school, normally conducted during the last week of April, is an integral part of this course.

PREREQUISITES: EARTH 1080 (or SCIE 1505) and first year Mathematics (MATH 1000) and Physics (PHYS 1190/1200 or PHYS 1300X/Y), or SCIE 1515Y, or SCIE 1530Y

CROSSLISTED: PHYS 2270.03

FORMATS: Lecture | Tutorial

ERTH 2380 Geochemistry

CREDIT HOURS: 3

An introduction to the principles of chemistry applied to geologic systems, including an overview of the chemistry of rocks and minerals, isotopes in the geologic environment, processes that control the release and mobility of contaminants in the environment, and the use of geochemical data in solving geologic and environmental problems.

PREREQUISITES: EARTH 1080/(ERTH 1090 or 1091) or SCIE 1515 or SCIE 1530, and EARTH 2001 & CHEM 1011/CHEM 1012 or equivalent, or permission of the instructor

FORMATS: Lecture | Tutorial

ERTH 2410 Environmental Issues in Earth Sciences

CREDIT HOURS: 3

Geology underlies many of the environmental problems facing humans today. Topics include environmental aspects of energy and mineral resource, geologic hazards, geologic connections to pollution and waste disposal, and the role that water plays in its various guises. Canadian examples are incorporated where appropriate. Approved with Canadian Studies.

PREREQUISITES: One of: EARTH 1080, EARTH/GEOG 1030, EARTH/GEOG 1060, ENV5 1000 or ENV5 1100 or ENV5 1200, SUST 1001 with a grade of B or above, or DISP with Earth Sciences

CROSSLISTED: CANA 2410, ENV5 2410

EXCLUSIONS: This class is not available for Earth Sciences Majors

FORMATS: Lecture

ERTH 2420 Dinosaurs

CREDIT HOURS: 3

Students will consider the origin, evolution and extinction of non-avian dinosaurs. What are dinosaurs? Why were some dinosaurs so big? What did dinosaurs eat? How fast could dinosaurs run? Were dinosaurs good parents? To answer these questions, we will examine the nature of evidence gathered from dinosaur fossils and their surrounding rocks.

PREREQUISITES: EARTH 1080.03 or any two of EARTH 1010, EARTH 1020, EARTH 1030, EARTH 1040, EARTH 1041, EARTH 1050, EARTH 1060, EARTH 1090, EARTH 1091, or SCIE 1515, SCIE 1515 or SCIE 1530, or permission of instructor

FORMATS: Lecture

ERTH 3001 Field School

CREDIT HOURS: 3

This course provides two weeks of geological mapping in the field and entails: (1) identifying, measuring and localizing rocks and geological structures; (2) drawing geological maps from field observations and (3) writing a report describing and interpreting the data.

CALENDAR NOTES: The class is held at the end of summer before regular classes in the fall term and is required for BSc Major and Honours programs.

PREREQUISITES: EARTH 2002.03, EARTH 2110.03, EARTH 2203.03

ERTH 3010 Igneous Petrology

CREDIT HOURS: 3

Igneous petrology is the study of the field relations, mineralogy, texture, and geochemistry of volcanic and plutonic rocks. Lectures discuss the classification and graphical representation of igneous rocks; the production, differentiation, and emplacement of magma in different tectonic environments. Practical work consists of laboratory petrographic examination and weekend field trips.

PREREQUISITES: EARTH 2002.03 and EARTH 2380.03

FORMATS: Lecture | Lab

ERTH 3020 Metamorphic Petrology

CREDIT HOURS: 3

Metamorphic petrology is the study of the way in which pre-existing igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic rocks respond to changes in pressure, temperature, and geochemical environment.

Metamorphic reactions, deformation and recrystallization, the stability relations of minerals and mineral assemblages under various physical and chemical conditions, and the concept of metamorphic facies are discussed. The relationship of metamorphism to other geological processes is considered. In the labs, microscopic mineralogy and texture are used to decipher the metamorphic history of rocks.

PREREQUISITES: EARTH 3010.03

FORMATS: Lecture | Lab

ERTH 3140 Structural Geology

CREDIT HOURS: 3

Introduction to the behaviour of rocks during deformation, stressing the geometrical aspects of rock structures. Students learn: (a) geometrical principles to identify, describe, and interpret common types of structures in outcrop and hand sample; (b) to interpret the mechanical properties of rocks based on their microstructure; (c) construction techniques to calculate and interpret stress and strain in deformed rocks.

PREREQUISITES: EARTH 2002.03, EARTH 2110.03, EARTH 2203.03

FORMATS: Lecture | Lab

ERTH 3205 Paleobiology

CREDIT HOURS: 3

This course examines fossil plants and animals and their interactions with the physical world throughout Earth history. Lectures and laboratories encompass the concepts of fossil preservation, fossil morphology, fossil identification, systematics, evolution, extinction, paleoecology and biostratigraphy.

PREREQUISITES: EARTH2205.03 or permission of the instructor

EXCLUSIONS: EARTH2205.03

FORMATS: Lecture | Lab



ERTH Course Descriptions

ERTH 3302 Quaternary Sedimentary Environments

CREDIT HOURS: 3

The student is exposed to fluvial, alluvial, subglacial, glaciolacustrine, hillslope, eolian, coastal, shallow marine, rift, wedge top, retroarc, and foreland basin environments. Field trips and labs provide experience in methods used to distinguish the environments, including sedimentology, geomorphology, geochronology and thermochronology, and analysis of soils, cores, pebble facies, and section-scale non-petroleum sedimentary facies. Quaternary paleoclimatology and tectonic controls on weathering and deposition are discussed and debated.

PREREQUISITES: EARTH 2203.03

CROSSLISTED: GEOG 3302

FORMATS: Lecture | Lab

ERTH 3303 Stratigraphy

CREDIT HOURS: 3

Stratigraphy is the backbone of the geological sciences; it brings together sedimentology, paleontology, petrology and structural geology to reconstruct Earth history. We survey the impact of sea-level change, tectonics and climate on sediment accumulation, with emphasis on seismic and sequence stratigraphy. Case studies focus on sedimentary basins across Canada, and practical work includes laboratory and class exercises, as well as field excursions.

PREREQUISITES: EARTH 2203.03

FORMATS: Lecture | Lab

ERTH 3401 Hydrogeology

CREDIT HOURS: 3

Hydrogeology examines the space-time characteristics of groundwater quantity and quality. It includes physical processes occurring in natural groundwater systems and the governing relations for flow and transport; emphasizing Darcy's Law, steady state and transient flow. It provides an overview of groundwater resource development, evaluation, contamination, and remediation.

PREREQUISITES: EARTH 3701 or permission of instructor

EXCLUSIONS: EARTH 3400.03, EARTH 3402.03

FORMATS: Lecture | Lab

ERTH 3420 Geochemistry of Aquatic Environments

CREDIT HOURS: 3

Given the abundance of water at the earth's surface and the wide use both humans and other organisms make of aqueous environments, it becomes imperative for environmentally-oriented scientists to understand the chemistry of natural bodies of water. In particular, we need to comprehend the processes that lead to the observed composition of groundwaters, lakes, rivers and oceans. We also need to be aware of how man's activities can alter these natural systems. Water is also an agent for geologic and environmental change, both on short and long time-scales. Earth and environmental scientists should have an appreciation of these processes (sources, sinks and transport mechanisms) and the resulting geological cycles. This course is an introduction to the governing principles and processes of aquatic geochemistry. Specific topics will include physical chemistry of natural waters, kinetics (mechanisms & rates) of geochemical reactions, the hydrologic cycle, the dissolved carbonate system and pH controls, redox reactions and the influence of life, rainwater and acid rain, weathering and the formation of soils, mineral-solution equilibria, controls on the composition of rivers, lakes and oceans, sediments and their after-burial changes, and the global cycles of carbon, nitrogen, and sulfur. Students will be taught to approach problems quantitatively through the principles of mass action (Eh-pH and activity-diagrams) and of mass balance (box models and conservation equations).

CALENDAR NOTES: This course is not offered every year.

PREREQUISITES: CHEM 1011.03/CHEM 1012.03 or equivalent and EARTH 1080/ERTH 1090 or EARTH 1091 or EARTH 1010/ERTH 1020

CROSSLISTED: OCEA 3420.03

FORMATS: Lecture

ERTH 3440 Geomorphology

CREDIT HOURS: 3

Geomorphology is the quantitative study of Earth's surface processes and landforms with applications in geology, civil engineering, hydrogeology, and environmental management. We investigate slope stability, weathering and soils, sediment production, wind-driven and coastal environments, tectonic landforms, and river, glacial and permafrost processes.

PREREQUISITES: EARTH 1080 (or SCIE 1506/1507 or SCIE 1505) and (ERTH 1090 or EARTH 1091); OR completion of (or concurrent enrolment in) a 1000-level mathematics class, a 1000-level physics class, a 1000-level chemistry class AND permission of instructor

CROSSLISTED: GEOG 3440.03

FORMATS: Lecture

ERTH 3500 Geoscience Information Management

CREDIT HOURS: 3

Geographic Information Systems (GIS), as a tool for the management of georeferenced data, have become indispensable for disciplines where location of objects and pattern of processes is important. GIS plays a significant role a wide range of applications, from modeling, to analysis and predictions, to decision making. The course is aimed at a broad base of potential users and draws on examples of the role of GIS in global climate change, mineral exploration, preservation of biodiversity, coastal zone management, resource depletion, and many other present and future environmental issues. The course material will be of interest to those studying geoscience, environmental science, ecology, marine biology, oceanography, epidemiology, urban and rural planning, civil engineering, and any other field involving spatial data. Laboratory exercises emphasize the principles of raster and vector GIS, and the integration of databases and GPS (global positioning systems) data into GIS. Exercises draw on the diversity of GIS applications in a number of application areas.

PREREQUISITES: Two years of university study or equivalent or instructor's permission

CROSSLISTED: EARTH 5600, GEOG 3500, ENVS 3500

EXCLUSIONS: Credit will only be given for one of EARTH 3500.03, EARTH 5600.03, GEOG 3500.03, SCIE 3600.03 or ENVS 3500

FORMATS: Lecture | Lab

ERTH 3601 Global Biogeochemical Cycles

CREDIT HOURS: 3

We currently face daunting environmental challenges at the global scale that are expected to worsen in the 21st century, including a global water crisis, climate change and pollution of our waters and atmosphere; this course examines the science behind these environmental issues from the

multi-disciplinary framework of global biogeochemical cycling. With the global scale as the focus, this course pulls together the many disparate fields that are encompassed by the broad reach of biogeochemistry. You will learn about the processes that drive the movement of carbon, water, nitrogen, phosphorus, and sulphur, through the earth system, and the residency of these elements in the atmosphere, soils, lithosphere, oceans and freshwaters. In the quantitative and analytical exercises, you calculate and compare the effects of industrial emissions, land clearing, agriculture, and rising population on the processes driving the Earth's chemical cycles. Weekly journal readings for discussion in laboratory group cover the latest developments in this exciting and rapidly changing field. This course provides an excellent framework for those interested in the science of global change. PREREQUISITES: CHEM 1011/ CHEM 1012 or equivalent, and one of ENVS 1000, SUST 1001, EARTH 1080, or one of SCIE 1502XY/SCIE 1504/ SCIE 1510XY, and completion of 2 years of study. CROSSLISTED: ENVS 3601.03

ERTH 3700 Earth Resources, Sustainability, and Society

CREDIT HOURS: 3

This course addresses the question: What do we need to know and understand about the nature and distribution of geologic resources to optimally reconcile mineral extraction with society's needs, considerations of the environment, and the sustainable development goals in a more sustainable, geothetical, and balanced approach, through the 21st century.

NOTES: Aimed as an elective course for majors in Earth Sciences and in Environmental Sciences. Must be third year students.

FORMAT: Seminar

PREREQUISITES: EARTH 1080 and 2 years of undergraduate study

CROSS-LISTING: GEOG 3700 ENVS 3700

ERTH 3701 Fundamentals of Hydrology

CREDIT HOURS: 3

This course is an introduction to hydrology, emphasizing surface processes and watershed responses. In this course we learn about both the pure and applied uses of hydrology. The course is quantitative and introduces hydrologic processes in the atmosphere, on the land surface, in groundwater and in stream channels.

PREREQUISITES: MATH 1000.03 or MATH 1215.03, AND one of ENVS 1100/1200 (or ENVS 1000), SUST 1001.06, EARTH 1080.03, SCIE 1506/1507 (or 1505), AND completion of 2 years of an undergraduate degree. PHYC 1190 and PHYC 1290.03 (or PHYC 1310/1320) are recommended.

CROSSLISTED: ENVS 3701.03

FORMATS: Lecture | Lab

ERTH 4001 Sponsored Geologic Experience

CREDIT HOURS: 1.5

These Field Trips &/or Laboratory Sessions introduce students to some of the following: Practical exploration techniques, field and laboratory skills, familiarization with deposit models, related economic and environmental geology, and the business side of Earth-science industries.

ERTH 4003 Advanced Field Geology Orientation

CREDIT HOURS: 1.5

This course covers geological and logistical preparation for the month-long Advanced Field Geology course. The course will examine the geology of southwestern North America, as well as geological processes and field techniques relevant to the Field School projects. Discussion topics will also include field safety, group dynamics, travel logistics, and travel grant proposals and fundraising.

NOTES: This is a compulsory course for students taking EARTH 4004: Advanced Field Geology. Credit can only be given for this course if EARTH 4003.015 and 4004.045 are completed in consecutive terms.

COREQUISITES: EARTH 3140.03

PREREQUISITES: EARTH 3001.03 and permission from instructor

ERTH 4004 Advanced Field Geology

CREDIT HOURS: 4.5

This application of the principles of field geology is a comprehensive and intellectually challenging program designed to provide pre-professional field training for senior BSc geoscience students. Multiple field-based projects challenge students to synthesize field observations and solve geological and environmental geoscience problems to gain training that is otherwise difficult to obtain in the classroom or laboratory.

NOTES: The field camp is usually offered in May at selected international settings and involves mapping exercises and camping over a wide range of climate and topography. Credit can only be given for this course if EARTH 4003.015 and 4004.045 are completed in consecutive terms.

PREREQUISITES: EARTH 4003.015 and permission of instructor

ERTH 4010 Advanced Topics in Petrology and Geochemistry

CREDIT HOURS: 3

This course advances students' knowledge of modern aspects of petrology, volcanology, and geochemistry, chosen to reflect instructor and students interests. The focus is on learning thermodynamic and computational methods as well as advanced petrographic work and field mapping for interpretation of igneous and metamorphic rocks.

CALENDAR NOTES: This course is not offered every year. Please consult department in the spring for further information.

PREREQUISITES: EARTH 3010, EARTH 3020, EARTH 3001

CROSSLISTED: EARTH 5010

ERTH 4101 Research Project

CREDIT HOURS: 3

This course allows students who are not in an Honours program to do a research project. See course description for EARTH 4201/4202.

CALENDAR NOTES: Credit can only be given for this course if EARTH 4101.03 and 4102.03 are completed in consecutive terms. No grade is assigned for EARTH 4101 until both EARTH 4101 and 4102 have been completed.

ERTH 4102 Research Project

CREDIT HOURS: 3

This course allows students who are not in an Honours program to do a research project. See course description for EARTH 4201.03/4202.03.

CALENDAR NOTES: Credit can only be given for this course if EARTH 4101.03 and 4102.03 are completed in consecutive terms. Credit cannot be given for a single term.

PREREQUISITES: EARTH 4101.03

ERTH Course Descriptions



ERTH 4110 Geological Oceanography

CREDIT HOURS: 3

This course provides a broad survey of geology and geophysics as they apply to the oceans. The course content covers methods and observations with quantitative applications to an understanding of marine geophysical and geological processes. The topics covered include the origin of ocean basins, plate tectonics, heat flow, gravity, and magnetics (1/3 of the course); patterns and processes of sediment transport and deposition, and the paleoceanographic reconstruction of and past climates (2/3 of the course).

CALENDAR NOTES: Some training in calculus and statistics will prove to be advantageous.

PREREQUISITES: OCEA 2001.03/OCEA 2002.03 (or OCEA 2000.06); OCEA 2020.03; OCEA 2021.03; ERTH 1080.03 or equivalent; or permission of instructor.

CROSSLISTED: OCEA 5110.03; OCEA 4110.03

ERTH 4131 Advanced Petroleum Geoscience

CREDIT HOURS: 3

This is an advanced course in petroleum geoscience applications and interpretation of basin/prospect evaluation. Students work in a team interpreting industry data, including well logs and reflection seismic, in a competitive environment. The team submits its findings and recommendations in written and oral presentations.

PREREQUISITES: ERTH 3303.03, ERTH 4153.03, or permission of the instructor

CROSSLISTED: ERTH 5131.03

FORMATS: Lecture

ERTH 4151 Mineral Deposits

CREDIT HOURS: 3

This course is an introduction to the geology of metallic ore and some industrial mineral deposits. Emphasis is given to the ore formation processes that lead to the economic concentrations of commodities. The course integrates many Earth Science disciplines. Laboratory work introduces ore study in reflected light microscopy.

CALENDAR NOTES: This course is not offered every year. Please consult department in the spring for further information.

PREREQUISITES: ERTH 3010.03, 3140.03

CROSSLISTED: ERTH 5151.03

FORMATS: Lecture | Lab

ERTH 4153 Petroleum Geology and Energy Systems

CREDIT HOURS: 3

The course provides an introduction to petroleum geology (gas and oil) with some discussion of alternative energy sources. The course provides an introduction to petroleum geology and petroleum systems with discussion of basin analysis, source rock evaluation, seismic and well log sequence stratigraphy, core and outcrop description, depositional facies analysis, oil sands geology, biostratigraphy, drilling and completions, petrophysics and well log analysis in addition to other topics.

PREREQUISITES: ERTH 2270.03, ERTH 3140.03, ERTH 3303.03

FORMATS: Lecture | Lab

ERTH 4157 Petroleum Geoscience Field Methods

CREDIT HOURS: 3

This course provides an advanced-level overview of petroleum systems and petroleum geology field methods including basin analysis, source rock evaluation, seismic and well log sequence stratigraphy and depositional facies analysis, biostratigraphy, drilling and completions, petrophysics and well log analysis in addition to other topics. The course comprises lecture, presentations, and a one week field seminar.

PREREQUISITES: ERTH 3303.03 and ERTH 4153.03 and permission of instructor

ERTH 4201 Honours Thesis

CREDIT HOURS: 3

This course covers many aspects of written and oral communication of scientific material. In particular, it covers the scientific method, the elements of scientific style, the logical organization and development of ideas and scientific writing. Individual research presentations form a key component.

CALENDAR NOTES: This is a compulsory course for students writing an Honours thesis in Earth Sciences, but is open to students from other disciplines. Field work may be part of thesis research. Credit can only be given for this course if ERTH 4201.03 and 4202.03 are completed in consecutive terms. No grade is assigned for ERTH 4201 until ERTH 4202 has also been completed.

FORMATS: Lecture

ERTH 4202 Honours Thesis

CREDIT HOURS: 3

This course covers many aspects of written and oral communication of scientific material. In particular, it covers the scientific method, the elements of scientific style, the logical organization and development of ideas and scientific writing. Individual research presentations form a key component.

CALENDAR NOTES: This is a compulsory course for students writing an Honours thesis in Earth Sciences, but is open to students from other disciplines. Field work may be part of thesis research. Credit can only be given for this course if ERTH 4201.03 and 4202.03 are completed in consecutive terms.

FORMATS: Lecture

ERTH 4350 Tectonics

CREDIT HOURS: 3

This course is intended to synthesize the various aspects of geology covered in the third-year core program. The focus of the course is on tectonic processes and the ways in which these processes create and modify the Earth's crust. We cover the fundamental geological, geophysical, and geochemical controls that operate today, including plate tectonics, and the ways in which these might have differed in the geological past. The tectonic evolution of specific orogenic belts is discussed, including both modern and ancient examples in Canada and other parts of the world.

PREREQUISITES: ERTH 2270.03, 3140.03

CROSSLISTED: ERTH 5350.03

FORMATS: Lecture

ERTH 4410 Environmental Geoscience

CREDIT HOURS: 3

Environmental geoscience integrates various aspects of earth sciences to critically examine the interaction between humans and the geologic environment. Topics include: environmentally sensitive elements and minerals, geologic hazards, water, soil, mineral and energy issues, use of isotopes as tracers, as well as waste management, radioactivity, and the urban environment.

CALENDAR NOTES: This course is not offered every year. Please consult department in the spring for further information.

COREQUISITES: ERTH 2380.03

PREREQUISITES: ERTH 2380.03, ERTH 3303.03 and two additional ERTH courses at the 3000 level or above, or permission of instructor

RESTRICTIONS: Restricted to students in third year or above.

ERTH 4460 Geochronology and Thermochronology

CREDIT HOURS: 3

Earth and Planetary Sciences extensively use the radioactive decay and growth of naturally occurring nuclides to quantify the timing and rates of geological processes. This course introduces the fundamentals of Geochronology and Thermochronology including the principles, analytical methods and application of several of the most widely applied geo- and thermochronometers.

FORMAT: Online Delivery

PREREQUISITES: ERTH 2380.03, ERTH 2002.03 and one course out of MATH 1000.03, PHYC 1190.03 or PHYC 1290.03.

CROSS-LISTING: ERTH 6400.03

ERTH 4470 Introduction to Seismic Imaging

CREDIT HOURS: 3

This course teaches the basic techniques of the reflection seismic method for imaging of earth structures such as those used in hydrocarbon exploration. Lectures introduce concepts and techniques that are applied in computer lab to the processing of a multi-channel seismic dataset. Concepts covered include: source and receiver geometry, digital filtering, deconvolution, velocity analysis, stacking, and migration.

PREREQUISITES: ERTH 2270.03 or consent of instructor

CROSSLISTED: ERTH 5470.03, OCEA 4470.03, PHYC 4470.03, PHYC 5470.03

FORMATS: Lecture | Lab

ERTH 4510 Directed Readings

This course is intended to permit further study of a specific topic of interest, or to correct a deficiency in a student's program. The course is supervised by a regular faculty member and the course content and marking scheme must be submitted to and approved by the chairperson in the first week of classes. Note: Further guidelines for directed reading courses are available from the undergraduate advisor or the Earth Sciences office. CREDIT HOURS: 3

NOTE: Course Details listed here also apply to ERTH 4511.

PREREQUISITES: Permission of Department

ERTH 4511 Directed Readings

CREDIT HOURS: 3

See ERTH 4510.

PREREQUISITES: Permission of Department

ERTH 4520 GIS Applications to Environmental and Geological Sciences

CREDIT HOURS: 3

Geographic information systems (GIS) provide a rich set of new tools to the geologist and environmental scientist, not only to solve conventional problems, but also to explore transdisciplinary questions not readily answered by other means. This course builds on the fundamentals of GIS taught in ERTH 3500.03 to explore analytical tools that aid in decision-making processes encountered in mineral exploration, hydrogeology, site selection, environmental assessment, and global change analysis. The course concentrates on case studies and problem solving, including those requiring multi-criteria and multi-objective decision making processes.

PREREQUISITES: GEOG 3500.03, ENVS 3500.03, ERTH 3500.03; ERTH 5600.03, or SCIE 3600.03; STAT 1060.03

CROSSLISTED: GEOG 4520.03, ERTH 5520.03

FORMATS: Lecture | Lab

ERTH 4530 Environmental Remote Sensing

CREDIT HOURS: 3

The goal of this course is to introduce students to the role of remote sensing as a technique provide environmental and geologic information. Particular emphasis will be placed on examining the potential and limitations of remote sensing methods and data in this context. The lectures discuss the fundamentals of remote sensing with an emphasis on optical multi-spectral satellite systems. In the lab, students use computerized techniques of digital image enhancement and thematic information extraction to process images derived from a range of remote-sensing systems. The integration of remote-sensing information with GIS (Geographic Information Systems) is stressed in both the labs and lectures.

CALENDAR NOTES: This course is not offered every year. Please consult department in the spring for further information.

PREREQUISITES: ERTH 3500.03, GEOG 3500.03, ENVS 3500.03 or ERTH 5600.03 or SCIE 3600.03

CROSSLISTED: GEOG 4530.03, ERTH 5530.03

FORMATS: Lecture | Lab

ERTH 4850 Geographic Information Science Research Project

CREDIT HOURS: 3

Students learn how to design, manage and complete a research project in Geographic Information Science (GIS). Projects must include a substantive analytical component where GIS is central to methods employed. Evaluation includes a written report, oral presentation and digital data. Required for completion of the Certificate in GIS.

COREQUISITES: ERTH 5420.03/GEOG 4520.03/ERTH4520.03

PREREQUISITES: ENVS 3500.03/ERTH 3500.03/GEOG 3500.03 and permission of instructor

CROSSLISTED: SCIE 4850.03, ENVS 4850.03, ERTH 4850.03, GEOG 4850.03

EXCLUSIONS: Restricted to 3rd and 4th year students

FORMATS: Lecture

Who do I speak to about...?

- General degree (e.g., BA, BSc, etc.) requirements?
 - Academic Advising (dal.ca/advising)
- Program requirements (e.g., Major, minor, honours, PGeo, etc.)?
 - Faculty Advisor (dal.ca/ees)
- Courses required to graduate?
 - Consult the Degree Audit Report System (DARS) through DalOnline and/or speak to an advisor (dalonline.dal.ca)
- Class offerings?
 - Consult the Academic Calendar (academiccalendar.dal.ca), speak to an advisor, or seek advice from other students (e.g., Undergraduate Dawson Society)
- Getting more involved?
 - Check out all our resources posted on our departmental website: dal.ca/ees

