



### **COURSE OBJECTIVES & SCOPE:**

Earth Science 2 is an introductory-level laboratory course designed to examine many of the basic principles of geology, meteorology, geography, oceanography, and astronomy. It gives students hands-on experience with Earth materials, skills to gather scientific data, and critical thinking to solve problems.

Earth Science 2 supplements Earth Science 1 lectures. Students will be introduced to the study of geologic materials by learning skills necessary to identify common minerals and rocks, determine structures and ages of rocks, describe and interpret processes related to running water and groundwater, locate earthquakes and determine their magnitudes, and analyze information contained in maps and aerial photographs. Other lab exercises include analyses of ocean floor topography and sediments, underwater volcanism and tectonic processes; interpretation of atmospheric data related to heating, moisture, pressure, and wind; determination of ocean water's heat capacity, salinity, temperature and density; and examining the terrestrial planets and patterns in the Solar system.

### **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

*Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:*

1. Explain the inter-relationships between the four spheres of our planet Earth, i.e. lithosphere, hydrosphere, atmosphere, and biosphere.
2. Identify common rocks and minerals; discuss the processes that form the different types of minerals and rocks; relate volcano & earthquake distribution patterns to plate tectonics; compute earthquake parameters such as distance to epicenter and Richter magnitude; Interpret the geology, geologic ages, and structures of rocks & regions; discuss the geologic work of running & groundwater.
3. Describe the various topographic elements and dynamics of the ocean floor; discuss how waves, currents and tides form; discuss the relationship between ocean water temperature, salinity, and density.
4. Discuss meteorological phenomena such as atmospheric heating, moisture, pressure, and wind and relate these phenomena to global climates.
5. Examine, compare and contrast the geologic landforms of the terrestrial planets; explain the geologic processes responsible for producing the observed landforms.

### **LAB ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

Absence from a lab session will result in zero marks for that lab assignment. Irrespective of the reason for absence, no make-up lab will be given to anyone who does not show up during the scheduled lab sessions. Students are responsible for all work missed when absent. If a student has been absent from any 3 lab sessions during the semester, for whatever reason, that student will be dropped from class at any time during the semester.

Occasional tardiness of up to 5 minutes may be tolerated. If a student has been arriving late during 6 lab sessions, that student will be dropped from class. Tardiness during two lab sessions will be considered as being absent for one full lab session. A student might as well be dropped if he/she had a combined absence and tardiness that add up to 3 absences.

### **LAB WORK:**

A typical lab session lasts for 3 hours and is worth 20 points. During each lab session, students will be provided with worksheets on which to write their work. Each student must complete and submit the lab worksheet before leaving the laboratory. And remember, a student has to submit his work in person; a student cannot submit a lab worksheet on behalf of another student.

The instructor will return graded lab worksheets at the beginning of the next lab session. Review of the previous lab will be done during the first 10-15 minutes of the new lab session. Following the review of the previous lab, there will be a 30-40 minutes introduction to the new lab. Students are therefore expected to arrive in the lab on time.

### ASSESSMENT AND GRADING:

There will be three exams for this course. Tentative dates are shown in this syllabus; if there will be any changes in the schedule, these will be announced by your instructor in advance.

For each exam you will need to bring the following items: Regular Scantron (Form No. 882 E), a ruler, a simple calculator, pencil and eraser.

Your final grade will be determined by the following:

Final letter grades will be assigned as follows:

1 <sup>st</sup> Mid-term Exam	100 points	A: $\geq$ 486 points
2 <sup>nd</sup> Mid-term Exam	100 points	B: 432-485 points
Final Exam	100 points	C: 378-431 points
<u>12 Labs</u>	<u>240 points</u>	D: 324-377 points
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>540 points</b>	F: <324 points

### POLICY ON EXAM MAKE-UPS:

Students should take exams on the scheduled dates; otherwise they will score zero points for that exam. There will be NO make-up exams except for valid and verifiable reasons (for example, if you were ill, you must submit a doctor's note). If you have a problem on the day of the exam you, your relatives or friends must e-mail or call your instructor before the scheduled exam time. Make-up exams, when approved, will take place on a date determined by your instructor.

### POLICY ON ACADEMIC DISHONESTY & CONDUCT IN CLASS:

Pursuant to West Los Angeles College's [WLAC] policy on student conduct, all forms of disruptive behaviors such as private talking, use of cell phones and texting while class is in session, as well as going out of class to answer or make a call etc. will not be allowed. These behaviors detract from the learning experience of others in the class. Students should make certain that cell phones are turned off before entering the class. In addition, eating &/or drinking beverages (except water) in the classroom, as well as chewing gum are prohibited. These and other college policies on academic integrity (cheating, plagiarism) will be strictly enforced. Students should read WLAC's publication on all aspects of student conduct outlined in the most recent College Catalog or by logging onto the College website at [http://www.wlac.edu/academics/pdf/WLAC\\_Catalog\\_Policies.pdf](http://www.wlac.edu/academics/pdf/WLAC_Catalog_Policies.pdf)

Consequences of Misconduct: Violators of College regulations and rules are subject to disciplinary action under Board Rule 9803.15 of the Los Angeles Community College District. Depending upon the seriousness of the conduct, disciplinary procedures may range from a warning to removal from the class with a referral to the Vice President of the College.

### DEADLINES

If you decide to withdraw from the course, you must file appropriate papers in the Admissions Office. Students should adhere to Add/Drop policies & deadlines of the College. It is the student's responsibility to officially drop out of the course, when he/she stops attending. Otherwise, grades other than a "W" may be assigned.

### STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY

If a student has disability (with special physical, communication or learning needs) and requires accommodations, he/she should contact the Disabled Students Programs & Services (DSPS) located on the first floor of the Heldman Learning Resources Center (HLRC). DSPS' phone number is (310) 287-4450.

### COLLEGE IS CLOSED ON THE FOLLOWING DAYS:

Labor Day: Sept 7

Veterans Day: Nov 11

Thanksgiving: Nov 26 - 29

*This syllabus may be modified in order to better meet student needs or in the event of an emergent matter.*