



SCS 215: Earth and Space Science

Student Syllabus for the Adult Degree Programs

Course Description

This course introduces principles of earth and space science with a purposefully Christian perspective. Earth and space sciences include the detailed study of Earth's materials, hydrologic systems, and tectonic systems, as well as an understanding of the other planets in our solar system. Underlying this course will be the examination of God's hand in this orderly creation and His continued involvement in it.

Course Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, the learner will be able to:

1. Examine geologic systems, the system of interdependent materials that interact with energy to form a unified whole.
2. Differentiate between minerals, igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic rocks.
3. Summarize Earth's climate systems, atmosphere, and oceans.
4. Examine the impact that hydrology has on the slope, river, groundwater, glacier, shoreline, and eolian systems.
5. Evaluate plate tectonics and their impact on Earth's structure.
6. Compare and contrast different plate boundaries.
7. Evaluate Earth's natural resources and the impact humans have on it.
8. Investigate the structure of planet Earth and the other planets.

Course Texts

Christiansen, E. H., & Hamblin, W. K. (2015). *Dynamic earth: An introduction to physical geology*. Jones and Bartlett Learning.
ISBN-13: 978-1449659844
ISBN-10: 1449659845

ESV value thinline Bible. (2016). Crossway.
ISBN-13: 978-1433550652
ISBN-10: 1433550652

Textbook Disclaimer

The textbooks for this course were chosen because their primary content directly relates to the objectives of this course. At times, there may be items or issues that are not presented from a proper Christian worldview. As such, the textbooks do not represent an endorsement by Geneva College or the relevant academic department at Geneva College.

Archiving of Online Courses

In order to provide the best service and to eliminate bandwidth bottlenecks, online courses will be removed from Moodle according to a scheduled archiving process. Students will have access in Moodle to courses taken during the current academic year and one previous academic year. Once a course is removed from Moodle, students will no longer have access to their coursework for the archived course. In preparation for the archiving of online courses, students are advised to save copies of their papers and other important coursework offline on a personal computer or other file storage location. Geneva College is not responsible for student files once a course has been archived offline.

Learning and Physical Disabilities Policy

Geneva College values diversity and inclusion and recognizes disabilities as an aspect of diversity. Our shared goal is to create learning environments that are accessible, equitable, and inclusive, ultimately leading to the success of our students in and beyond college. Therefore, Geneva College complies with the ADA as well as Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act by affording reasonable accommodations to qualified students with disabilities. Any student with a disability who needs academic accommodations should contact Geneva's Student Success Center (SSC) to arrange a confidential appointment with the Director of the SSC before or during the first week of classes. (Some accommodations may take time to put into place, so it is advised to request this appointment as early as possible.) Legally, no retroactive accommodations can be provided.

Accommodations for disabilities are available only as recommended by the SSC. For more details, visit the [Student Success Center website](#), call 724-847-5005, or stop by the SSC office. The SSC is located on the second floor of the Student Center. Students who have questions about their right to benefits or have grievances under these statutes should contact the Director of the SSC.

The Grading System in the Adult Degree Program

The grading scale for the Adult Degree Program is A, B, C, D, and F. Geneva includes pluses (+) and minuses (-) in the determination of the grade point average (GPA). Grade points are assigned for each semester hour of credit earned according to the following system:

Letter Grade	Percentage	GPA	Explanation
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A	93.00% - 100.00%	4.0	Excellent
A-	90.00% - 92.99%	3.7	
B+	87.00% - 89.99%	3.3	
B	83.00% - 86.99%	3.0	Good
B-	80.00% - 82.99%	2.7	
C+	77.00% - 79.99%	2.3	
C	73.00% - 76.99%	2.0	Satisfactory
C-	70.00% - 72.99%	1.7	
D+	67.00% - 69.99%	1.3	
D	63.00% - 66.99%	1.0	Less than Satisfactory
D-	60.00% - 62.99%	0.7	
F	< 60.00%	0.0	No Credit Given
WX, WP, WF			Withdrawal

Policy on Academic Honesty

Because honesty is expected in all college relationships, any form of cheating on exams or any plagiarism in formal written work is punishable by failure in the course. Repeated violations may result in expulsion from the college. Please read the Academic Integrity Guidelines in Appendix A of the ADP Student Handbook.

Students may appeal any disciplinary action by following the procedure laid out in the Academic Integrity Guidelines in the ADP Student Handbook.

Students are encouraged to visit www.plagiarism.org in order to clarify what constitutes plagiarism as well as a number of other academic standards. This website also provides directives as to how to avoid committing this act and how to properly cite academic sources.

Turnitin Policy

Students agree that by taking this course all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Students must agree to the End User License Agreement (EULA) for Turnitin. Use of the Turnitin service is subject to the Usage Policy and Privacy Pledge posted on Turnitin.com. Assignments that are not submitted through Turnitin will not be graded and will not receive credit.

Participation Policy

In the online environment, **participation is marked by the completion of an academic event in each session (week) of the course.** Academic events include, but are not limited to, submission of a class assignment, participation in class discussion forum, or completion of a quiz/exam.

If no academic event is completed within the first session (Week 1) of a course, the student will be administratively withdrawn from the course. Beyond the first session, if no academic event is completed for a class session, the student will be considered as having not participated in that week of class, which in some cases may result in zeros on the missed assignments and a half-letter grade deduction from the student's final course grade.

If a student does not complete an academic event for two consecutive sessions, the student will either be administratively withdrawn from the course or will receive a final course grade of F, depending on how much of the course has transpired at the time of the second week of nonparticipation. For more details, please review Geneva's Student Handbook ([Undergraduate](#) and [Graduate](#)).

Academic Grievance Policy

For grievances related to grading and other course academic policies, the student should follow the published Grievance and Appeal Process in the ADP Student Handbook.

Course Evaluation

Criteria	Points Breakdown	Points
Discussion Forums (10)	30 points each	300 points
Quizzes (8)	Quizzes 1-7 = 30 points each Quiz 8 = 20 points	230 points
Total		530 points

Assignment Descriptions

Discussion Forums

Class participation is monitored by postings and responses in the discussion forum. Typically, class participation is composed of two parts:

- Part 1 – Requires you to go to your discussion forum and post a response to a question or prompt that is written in your syllabus by 11:55 pm (EST) Wednesday of your scheduled session week. Your instructor will generally respond to your post within 24 hours. Depending on the nature of the assignment, the instructor may have a follow up question for you, ask you for

clarification or further details, or direct your conversation to someone else for rebuttal.

- b. Part 2 – Respond back to your instructor’s post. In addition, post a response to at least two of your fellow classmates’ postings, using 1 or 2 paragraphs. Your response should further the discussion (e.g., ask a question, provide further information or examples, or introduce a different opinion). In particular, one response to a classmate **MUST** be in the form of a question that seeks to further the conversation. Your question must be posed by 11:55 pm (EST) Friday of the scheduled session week so that your classmate has adequate time to answer it.

Likewise, if a question is posed to you by Friday night, you are also required to answer it.

Part 2 of these online activities (response to instructor, response to classmates’ questions of you, and responses to your classmates) must be completed by 11:55 pm (EST) Saturday of each session.

NOTE: How to earn full credit in discussion forums:

1. Become familiar with the discussion forum rubric, which is available to you in all of your Moodle classroom discussion forums.
2. Be thoughtful in your responses and incorporate examples from your personal and professional experiences and references to the course material (e.g., readings, lecture, videos, audio clips, scripture, etc.) when appropriate. Remember to cite all sources and references according to proper APA style.
3. Respond to the discussion contributions of at least 2 peers and be sure to adequately address all posts your instructor may pose to you throughout the week. This level of participation is **REQUIRED** as the minimum in all discussion forums (see the rubric for more detail).

Your posting and responses will be graded by your instructor. For a detailed description of your responsibility in discussion forum postings, please see the “Interacting in the Online Environment” section in the ADP Student Handbook.

Quizzes

During this course, there will be eight quizzes that cover essential concepts from the course readings. These quizzes include multiple choice and true/false questions that are taken from the material covered in the respective session week.

- Session 1 – Online quiz on the material covered in Chapters 1-3 of the textbook (30 points)
- Session 2 – Online quiz on the material covered in Chapters 4-7 of the textbook (30 points)
- Session 3 – Online quiz on the material covered in Chapters 8-10 of the textbook (30 points)
- Session 4 – Online quiz on the material covered in Chapters 11-13 of the textbook (30 points)
- Session 5 – Online quiz on the material covered in Chapters 14-16 of the textbook (30 points)
- Session 6 – Online quiz on the material covered in Chapters 17-19 of the textbook (30 points)

- Session 7 – Online quiz on the material covered in Chapters 20-22 of the textbook (30 points)
- Session 8 – Online quiz on the material covered in Chapters 24-25 of the textbook (20 points)

Students will be allowed to consult their text and notes when taking online quizzes. However, quizzes will be timed, and students will need to have a working knowledge of the material before taking the quiz. There will simply not be enough time to “look up” every answer in your text and materials.

If a student does not take a quiz by Saturday at 11:55 pm (EST) of the designated session week, then they will not have an opportunity to make it up.

Professional Skills in Your Online Courses

All courses in your Geneva College Online program will provide you with an opportunity to develop valuable skills that can positively influence your professional and career development. Each course at Geneva provides numerous opportunities to develop skills employers desire in their employees and job candidates in areas including, but not limited to, written communication, research, critical thinking, and decision-making. However, targeted skill sets are also developed through the learning in particular courses.

After successful completion of this course, you will be able to add these particular skills to your bank of professional assets:

Research Skills



Skillful in compiling, organizing, and using data to enhance planning and effectiveness

Problem Solving Skills

$$\sum_{i=1}^n i = \frac{n(n+1)}{2}$$

Ability to identify and define problems and solutions

Categorizing/Classifying Skills



Skillful in compiling, organizing, and using data to enhance planning and effectiveness

Observation Skills



Adept at using eyes, hands, and the body with precision and skill in the physical world

Design Skills



Creation of a plan or convention for the construction of an object, system, or measurable human interaction