



Course Syllabus: Environmental Geophysics
McCoy College of Science, Mathematics, and Engineering
GEOS 4844-201
Spring 2021

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Andrew Katumwehe
Office: Bolin 307H
Lecture: TR 3:00-4:20 PM RM 105
Lab: W 1:00-2:50 PM RM 105
Office hours: M - Fr: 9:00 – 10:00AM and by appointment
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Office hours

Due to Covid-19 pandemic, please feel free to call in or use zoom for a one on one meeting but if you choose to come to office please have your face cover on and first send an email.

Course Description

This is a lecture-based overview of Environmental Geophysics, this directly refers to the application of geophysical methods for investigating near surface physico-chemical phenomena which are likely to have significant implications for the management of the local environment. This course is focused on methods and approaches that are appropriate for the shallow targets. The course introduces each geophysical method by presenting the basic theory as well as its practical applications in exploring a given target. We will cover the various fundamental principles of experimental designs to support the theory and brief discussions on how data is processed and interpreted.

We will examine the different shallow subsurface geophysical methods such as gravity which is based on the density contrast between different geological Units. The applications for gravity methods like mapping bedrock depth and subsurface deformation will be mentioned. Just like gravity method, magnetic method is based on a magnetic field caused primarily by sources at the boundary between the inner and outer core. Many rocks and minerals are magnetized by induction in the Earth's field, and cause spatial perturbations or "anomalies" in the Earth's main field. Man-made objects containing iron or steel are often highly magnetized and can locally cause large anomalies up to several thousands of nT.

The electrical methods of prospecting depend on the marked differences in the resistivity that exist between adjacent geological formations. These differences are

produced by either variation in the porosity of rocks or the nature of saline solutions present. The electrical methods depend on whether current is injected in the ground and a potential difference is measured (active) or measuring the voltage of naturally occurring field (passive).

During this course we shall also look at seismic wave propagation using both refraction and reflection methods. The theory of wave propagation will be tested using the ground penetrating radar. In addition to the PowerPoint-based lectures, you are expected to attend lectures and come prepared by reading the textbook. At the end of this course, you will be familiar with using geophysical tools, acquiring geophysical data, processing, interpreting and integrating different geophysical data sets to solve most environmental/engineering problems.

Active participation in all lab sessions is mandatory while completion of all lab assignments on time is expected. If you are going to miss a lab you must let Dr. Andrew know in advance. Field labs have no makeup since most geophysical labs are labor intensive. Note that some labs will consist of a take home problem sets only whereas other labs will require use of software available on computers in Bolin 105

Required Textbook & Instructional Materials

1- An Introduction to Applied Environmental Geophysics by John M Reynolds

2-Introduction to Applied Geophysics by Burger, Sheehan, and Jones Norton 2006

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook 2017-18](#)

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted norm of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct and on this link.

<https://msutexas.edu/student-life/assets/files/handbook.pdf>.

Grading

Lecture Portion of course = 60% of final grade. Lecture Exam 1 = 10% of final grade; Lecture Exam 2 = 10% of final grade; Final Exam = 20% of final grade; Assignments=30% of final grade. Lab assignments =20%, while a research paper contributes 10% of the total grade. If you miss any of the classes make up is possible only if (1) you have a written excuse as to why you missed the exam and (2) you notified Dr. Andrew Katumwehe in advance that you would miss the exam. A missed exam or quiz must be made up within one week or you may receive a grade of zero. There may be extreme circumstances as to why prior notice was not given, these will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Note that oversleeping is not an acceptable reason! Lab attendance and participation, lab exercise

completion and homework assignments (usually one per week) will determine your overall Lab Completion grade. All lab assignments must be turned in within one week of original due date. After two weeks, a grade of zero may be given for a late assignment. The Research Paper grade is 20% of final grade. The research paper grade will be derived as follows - 50% derived from submitted text and 50% derived from presentation. Presentation is limited to 15 minutes and will be followed by 5-10 minutes for questions from peers, lab TAs, instructor, and/or guests. Presentations may be PowerPoint or poster-based. Research papers must be between 2250 and 3250 words (about 4-6 pages of text based on 11-pt or 12-pt font; word count per MSWord's word count tool) and be no longer than ten total pages including illustrations and title page. Papers must contain an abstract no more than 250 words (not included in word count) and highlights of the paper. At least three primary, peer reviewed references, and be structured as follows: (1) Title page with title and author; (2) Abstract and highlights; (3) Introduction (background and rationale for paper topic choice); (4) Discussion (basically what you learned and want to share with your colleagues as a result of your research); (5) Conclusion (highlight or restatement of most important learning's from your perspective and why you chose the particular topic); and (6) references (minimum of five primary references). Figures and/or tables (with captions and references) may be included within the text or at end of paper. Format – MS Word; paper copy and electronic copy to be submitted per the course schedule/syllabus. Papers are due as per the syllabus schedule. Papers submitted one week late will be docked one letter grade (e.g. 10 points; thus a paper that would have received an 85% grade if submitted on time will receive a final grade of 75% if submitted one week late). Research papers submitted more than two weeks late may be given a grade of zero. Papers must be submitted in both printed and electronic form (MS Word). The latter should be submitted via Dr. Andrew Katumwehe's University email at andrew.katumwehe@msutexas.edu with the words "GEOS 4844 Paper Fall 2019" along with your paper title on the email subject line. The research paper grade is determined based on format compliance (up to 60% of paper grade; see previous paragraph for details) and logical reasoning (up to 40% of paper grade). Note that the Lecture exams, lab quizzes, and lab completion grades are typically normalized ("curved") by simple arithmetic adjustment so that the class grade average is between 76-80%. However, this is only curved for students who have consistently attended and handed in their assignments, quizzes, research paper and exams. All components of your final grade must be submitted/completed by April 22. The homework assignments will be posted on D2L. The homework assignments will include questions to answer that focus on lecture and lab content. Homework due dates are listed in the syllabus. The Table below (next page) summarizes the grading policy for this course.

Table 1: Points allocated to graded item or group of items discussed in the Grading Section above.

Graded Items	Contribution to Final Course Grade
Exam 1	10%
Exam 2	10%
Final Exam	20%
Lecture Assignments	30%
Lab Grade (includes lab quizzes, lab participation and attendance, homework assignments)	20%
Research Paper	10%

Table 2: Final grade determination (grades are rounded up to the nearest integer before assigning the final course letter grade. This means, for example, that a final calculated course grade of 89.8% will be rounded up to a final course grade of 90.)

Grade	Points
A	90 and above
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	Less than 60

Homework

See Grading Section for details – All Homework to be submitted to my office in your regular lab section

Lab Assignments

See Grading Section for details – All Lab Assignments to be submitted to me during your regular lab section meeting.

Lab Attendance Policy – Important!

Students who miss three or more lab section meetings may be dropped from the course by the instructor. Students must notify Dr. Andrew Katumwehe by email in advance of missing a lab section. Students who leave lab/lectures sections early may be marked absent. Any proximal interaction, including supervision or collegial interaction in the class, lab and outside during demonstration requires a cloth face covering.

The SARS-Cov2 virus is a threat to the execution of this class. We will replicate conditions that have been useful to healthcare workers.

Rules:

- Stay home if you or anyone in your immediate dwelling is ill.
- You must pass a daily self-assessment whenever you engage in non-remote work – reporting the absence of fever or other symptoms.

- Wash hands for 20 seconds whenever possible. Use hand sanitizer at least once per hour.
- Maintain 6 feet distance when possible.
- Masks are to be worn whenever in close proximity or in closed spaces.
- Individuals should be each assigned equipment, when possible.
- Wipe equipment disinfecting cleanser before exchanging users.
- Maintain a same sitting in the lab
- Face shields will be given for added protection

Information on the face covers can be found on: <https://msutexas.edu/return-to-campus/assets/files/msu-texas-facial-covering-requirement.pdf>

COVID-19 ACCOMMODATIONS

Students may apply through; <https://msutexas.edu/student-life/disability/covid/student-concerns.php>

Exams

See Grading Section for details – Three lecture exams are included in your course grade; see Grades section for details. All exams will have a time limit of 50 minutes for the two “midterm” exams and 110 minutes for the final exam.

Research Paper

See Grading Section for details about content and format. All Research Papers must be submitted in Microsoft Word or PDF format to andrew.katumwehe@msutexas.edu and paper copy to my physical mailbox in Bolin 307H.

Lecture (Attendance) Extra Credit

Limited extra credit opportunities will be available on an irregular and random basis during the lecture portion of the course. Each individual extra credit opportunity will be worth up to one (1.0) extra credit point. Generally, these opportunities will involve a short written response to a question or problem posed during the lecture or more often than not, simply your signature on attendance sheet (therefore, bring paper and pen/pencil to lectures and printouts for the presentations).

Late Work

Late work will be accepted. However, the following penalties will apply in all cases of late submittals: 10% for one day past due; 20% for two days past due; 30% for one weeks past due; after one week a grade of zero may be recorded. No course assignments will be accepted after 22/04/2021.

Important Dates

The last Day to drop this course with a ‘w’ is 4.00 pm March 22, 2021. Check for details in the University 2021 spring calendar under [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

The MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Lectures, review materials, and course information are available through D2L. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

Online Computer Requirements

Taking a course with considerable online class requires you to have access to a computer with reasonable Internet access to complete and upload your assignments. It is your responsibility to have (or have access to) a working computer in this class. Assignments and tests are due by the due date, and personal computer technical difficulties may not be considered as a reason for the instructor to allow students extra time to submit assignments, tests, or discussion postings. Computers are available on campus in various areas of the buildings as well as the Academic Success Center. Your computer being down is not an excuse for missing a deadline or an exam! There are many places to access your class! Our online classes can be accessed from any computer in the world which is connected to the internet. If you have technical difficulties in the course, there is also a student helpdesk available to you. The college cannot work directly on student computers due to both liability and resource limitations however they are able to help you get connected to our online services. For help, log into [D2L](#). Attendance in this course is mandatory since we will be using zoom during class, a link will be provided for the course.

Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. However, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exists in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

Services for Students with Disabilities

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational

programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

College Policies

Campus Carry Rules/Policies are given here: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by WATC. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place, which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

Grade Appeal Process

Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [Undergraduate Catalog](#)

Notice

Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor. These changes will be communicated to all students through [D2L](#). Please check the course news on a regular basis for schedule updates.

The course schedule detail is given on the next five pages. The first table lists lecture topics, textbook readings, and the three lecture exams. The second table lists the dates for the lab topics, three lab quizzes, research paper due date, homework assignment due dates, and self-assessment assignments.

Course Schedule – Lecture Topics and Exams, Text Reading (Page 1 of 3)

Date	Topic and Topic Number
12-Jan	Course overview, techniques and targets
13-Jan	Potential Field: Methods-Gravity methods
14-Jan	Potential Field: Methods-Gravity methods
19-Jan	Potential Field: Methods-Gravity methods
20-Jan	Potential Field: Methods-Gravity methods Assignment 1- Gravity methods
21-Jan	Potential Field: Methods-Gravity methods
26-Jan	Potential Field: Magnetic Methods
27-Jan	Gravity methods-Lab
28-Jan	Potential Field: Magnetic Methods
02-Feb	Potential Field: Magnetic Methods
03-Feb	Potential Field: Magnetic Methods Assignment 2- Magnetic Methods
04-Feb	Magnetic methods-Lab
09-Feb	Exam 1: Gravity and Magnetics
10-Feb	Electrical methods: Resistivity Method
11-Feb	Electrical methods: Resistivity Method
16-Feb	Electrical methods: Resistivity Method Assignment 3- Resistivity Method
17-Feb	Resistivity Method Lab
18-Feb	Seismic Methods – Refraction Seismology
23-Feb	Seismic Methods – Refraction Seismology
24-Feb	Seismic Methods – Reflection Seismology
25-Feb	Seismic Methods – Reflection Seismology
02-March	Seismic Methods – Reflection Seismology
03-March	Seismic Methods – Reflection Seismology
04-March	Seismic Methods – Reflection Seismology Assignment 4- Seismic Methods
09-March	Electrical and Electromagnetic methods- Induced Polarization (IP)
10-March	Electrical and Electromagnetic methods- Induced Polarization (IP)
11-March	Induced Polarization (IP)
15-20 March	Spring break - No Class
16-March	Induced Polarization (IP)
17-March	Electromagnetic methods (EM)
25-March	Electromagnetic methods (EM)
30- March	Exam 2: Resistivity & Seismic Methods
01-April	Ground Penetrating Radar
06-April	Ground Penetrating Radar

Date	Topic and Topic Number
07-April	Ground Penetrating Radar
08-April	Assignment 5- EM, IP and GPR
13-April	Final Research Presentation and submission -Group 1
14-April	Presentation -Group 2
15-April	Final Review
27-April	Final Exam 8.00-10:00AM