

# DEPARTMENT OF THE GEOPHYSICAL SCIENCES

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## Chair

- Fred Ciesla

## Faculty

- Dorian Abbot
- Clara Blättler
- B.B. Cael
- Andrew Campbell
- Fred Ciesla
- Maureen Coleman
- Dan Czczo
- Andrew M. Davis
- Michael Foote
- Pedram Hassanzadeh
- Philipp Heck (part-time)
- David Jablonski
- Malte Jansen
- Tyler Karp
- David Keith
- Susan M. Kidwell
- Edwin Kite
- Elizabeth J. Moyer
- Noboru Nakamura
- Sunyoung (Sunny) Park
- Meghana Ranganathan
- Linta Reiji
- Tiffany Shaw
- Graham J. Slater
- Jacob Waldbauer
- Mingyi Wang
- Mark Webster
- Alexandra Worden (part-time)
- Sarah Zeichner

## Emeritus Faculty

- David Archer
- Dion L. Heinz
- Lawrence Grossman
- Michael C. LaBarbera
- Frank M. Richter
- Ramesh C. Srivastava
- Douglas R. MacAyeal
- Alfred Ziegler
- Robert Newton

## PROGRAM OF GRADUATE STUDY

The Department of the Geophysical Sciences trains graduate students who seek the PhD in Earth, planetary, historical, biological, and environmental sciences. The Department was created in 1961 when the departments of geology and meteorology merged to better embrace the multidisciplinary nature of research and training spanned by these related disciplines.

PhD students design and conduct original research using experimental, observational, and theoretical approaches, thus developing scientific independence from the very start of their studies. Many PhD students earn a master's degree along the way.

The Department maintains close ties with other programs on campus, including Astronomy and Astrophysics, Chemistry, Evolutionary Biology, Microbiology, Physics, and Statistics, among many others. The University is not saddled with barriers between units, a feature that facilitates interdisciplinary collaboration. The Department also benefits from formal connections with people and resources at Argonne National Laboratory, the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, the Field Museum of Natural History, and the Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Hole.

The Department and the University also provide training in pedagogy—for example, through teaching assistantships in undergraduate courses, workshops at the Chicago Center for Teaching and Learning, and outreach activities at local schools and museums.

Regarding classes, each student plans a program of study with their advisory committee that best suits their needs. Students are expected to recruit a permanent advisor by the end of their first year of study, and to assemble an advisory committee and pass qualifying exams by the end of their second year. These exams include a defense of a dissertation research proposal and demonstration of background knowledge relevant to the proposed research.

## GEOPHYSICAL SCIENCES COURSES

### **GEOS 30200. Introduction to Research in the Geophysical Sciences. 100 Units.**

This course is mandatory for all incoming graduate students in the department. Its purpose is to introduce the faculty's current research themes/areas and to familiarize incoming graduate students with research areas they might contemplate for further specialization. Student activity varies from year to year and is based on a combination of oral and written presentations.

Instructor(s): L. Reji, Staff Terms Offered: Autumn

### **GEOS 30250. Communicating Science: Talks, Papers, and Proposals. 100 Units.**

This course provides a hands-on way of delving into how science gets communicated and gives students the opportunity to strengthen skills in all elements of scientific presentation. The class will cover the basic principles of great presenting and the practicalities of how to give scientific talks, including the difference between conference talks, seminars, and job talks, and how to design and present great posters. It will also cover how to write compelling and clear scientific papers and persuasive grant proposals. The course is designed as a seminar and will allow students to practice all of these skills. It is designed to be maximally beneficial to graduate students who are in the process of preparing talks, conference presentations, papers, and/or proposals or fellowship applications.

Instructor(s): M. Ranganathan Terms Offered: Autumn

### **GEOS 30500. Topics in the Geophysical Sciences. 100 Units.**

This course is offered from time-to-time as a means of covering topics that are generally not covered by regularly offered courses in the curriculum. Students should consult with appropriate faculty regarding opportunities to take this course when the situation arises.

Instructor(s): Staff Terms Offered: Autumn. Terms Offered: Autumn Winter Spring

### **GEOS 31000. Mineralogy. 100 Units.**

This course covers structure, chemical composition, stability, and occurrence of major rock-forming minerals. Labs concentrate on mineral specimen identification and optical microscopy. (L)

Instructor(s): D. Heinz Terms Offered: Autumn

Prerequisite(s): CHEM 10100 & 10200 or equivalent

Equivalent Course(s): GEOS 21000

### **GEOS 31005. Mineral Science. 100 Units.**

This course examines the physics and chemistry of minerals, and their relationship with mineral structure. Topics may include mineral thermodynamics, crystallography, defect properties, phase transitions, analytical tools, and detailed study of specific mineral groups.

Instructor(s): A. Campbell Terms Offered: Winter. Offered every other year.

Prerequisite(s): GEOS 21000 or consent of instructor

Equivalent Course(s): GEOS 21005

### **GEOS 31200. Physics of the Earth. 100 Units.**

This course considers geophysical evidence bearing on the internal makeup and dynamical behavior of the Earth, including seismology (i.e., properties of elastic waves and their interpretation, and internal structure of the Earth); mechanics of rock deformation (i.e., elastic properties, creep and flow of rocks, faulting, earthquakes); gravity (i.e., geoid, isostasy); geomagnetism (i.e., magnetic properties of rocks and history, origin of the magnetic field); heat flow (i.e., temperature within the Earth, sources of heat, thermal history of the Earth); and plate tectonics and the maintenance of plate motions. (L)

Instructor(s): D. Heinz Terms Offered: Spring

Prerequisite(s): Prior calculus and college-level physics courses, or consent of instructor.

Equivalent Course(s): GEOS 21200

**GEOS 31210. Global Seismology. 100 Units.**

This course covers theories of seismic wave propagation and fundamental concepts of global seismology. Topics include stress/strain, wave equation, ray theory, surface waves, earthquake source, etc.

Instructor(s): S. Park Terms Offered: Winter

Prerequisite(s): Multivariable calculus (e.g., MATH 15300) and mechanics (e.g., PHYS 13100). If not, permission of instructor.

Equivalent Course(s): GEOS 21210

**GEOS 31250. Topics in Seismology. 100 Units.**

In this seminar, we discuss seismological and multidisciplinary topics. Topics include, but are not limited to: seismic imaging techniques, planetary seismology, environmental seismology, deep earthquakes and other emerging subjects in seismology. The specific focus for each class offering will be determined by the interests of the faculty and students. Can be taken multiple times for credit since the specific topic will change each quarter.

Instructor(s): S. Park Terms Offered: Spring

Prerequisite(s): GEOS 21205/31205 or permission of instructor

**GEOS 31260. Topics in Geodesy. 100 Units.**

In this seminar, we focus on the application of geodesy to seismological and other geophysical problems. Topics include, but are not limited to: the Earth's deformation, geodetic techniques, seismogeodesy and other emerging subjects in geodesy. The specific focus for each class offering will be determined by the interests of the faculty and students. Can be taken multiple times for credit since the specific topic will change each quarter.

Instructor(s): S. Park Terms Offered: Spring

Prerequisite(s): GEOS 21205/31205, 21210/31210 or permission of instructor

**GEOS 31400. Thermodynamics and Phase Change. 100 Units.**

This course develops the thermodynamics of minerals, with emphasis on relations between thermodynamic variables and equations of state. Geological and geochemical applications include homogeneous and heterogeneous phase equilibrium, culminating in the construction of representative multicomponent phase diagrams of petrological significance, and fluid-rock interactions.

Instructor(s): A. Campbell Terms Offered: Winter

Prerequisite(s): College-level chemistry and calculus.

Equivalent Course(s): GEOS 21400

**GEOS 32080. Astrophysics of Exoplanets. 100 Units.**

Extrasolar planets, a.k.a. exoplanets, are planets orbiting other stars. First definitively detected in the mid 1990s, the planet count has rapidly expanded and their physical characterization has sharpened with improved observational techniques. Theoretical studies of planetary formation and evolution are now attempting to understand this statistical sample. The field also aspires to address questions about life in the universe. This course emphasizes hands-on activities, like working with real astronomical data to find and characterize exoplanets. Topics are the radial velocity, transit, and other discovery and characterization techniques; statistical distributions of known planets; comparisons among planet structure and planetary system types; formation in a protoplanetary disk and subsequent dynamical evolution; the goal of finding life on an exoplanet; colonization of exoplanets; and the Fermi paradox.

Instructor(s): Diana Powell Terms Offered: Spring

Prerequisite(s): ASTR 25400; PHYS 18500 recommended.

Equivalent Course(s): ASTR 25800

**GEOS 32090. Recent Advances in the Origins of Life. 100 Units.**

Learn about the recent advances in the search for the origins of life.

Instructor(s): F. Ciesla, J. Szostak Terms Offered: Winter

**GEOS 32200. Geochronology. 100 Units.**

This course covers the duration of planetary differentiation and the age of the Earth (i.e., extinct and extant chronometers); timescales for building a habitable planet (i.e., the late heavy bombardment, the origin of the atmosphere, the emergence of life, and continent extraction); dating mountains (i.e., absolute ages, exposure ages, and thermochronology); the climate record (i.e., dating layers in sediments and ice cores); and dating recent artifacts (e.g., the Shroud of Turin). (L)

Instructor(s): A. Davis Terms Offered: Autumn

Prerequisite(s): Background in college-level geology, physics, and mathematics

Equivalent Course(s): GEOS 22200

**GEOS 32300. Cosmochemistry. 100 Units.**

Chemical, mineralogical, and petrographic classifications of meteorites. Topics include: abundances of the elements, origin of the elements and stellar evolution, the interstellar medium and formation of the solar nebula, condensation of the solar system, chemical fractionations in meteorites and planets, age of the solar system, extinct radionuclides in meteorites, isotope anomalies.

Instructor(s): A. Davis Terms Offered: Autumn. This course is offered in alternate years.

**GEOS 32305. Topics in Cosmochemistry. 100 Units.**

Topics in Cosmochemistry, different each year at the discretion of the instructor.

Instructor(s): A. Davis

Equivalent Course(s): GEOS 22305

**GEOS 32600. Topics in Earth Science: The Accretion of Extraterrestrial Matter Throughout Earth's History. 100 Units.**

This course will provide a discussion of the nature and variability of extraterrestrial (ET) matter accreted throughout Earth's history that is preserved in the geological record. This record is a rich archive of ET matter whose study not only provides unique insight into the origin and evolution of different Solar System objects but also enables a better understanding of delivery mechanisms. The course will highlight periods of dramatically increased accretion rates and important impact events. This includes events such as the recent Chelyabinsk and Tunguska air blasts, the "global killer" Chicxulub impact 66 Ma ago, the Ordovician meteorite showers, all the way to cataclysmic events that occurred on early Earth. The course will also provide an introduction to related key techniques such as classification with material from the meteorite collection, the identification of impact craters, and the use of tracers of ET material in the geological record.

Instructor(s): P. Heck Terms Offered: Autumn

Prerequisite(s): Background in college-level geology and mineralogy or consent of instructor

Equivalent Course(s): GEOS 22600

**GEOS 32700. Analytical Techniques in Geochemistry. 100 Units.**

Modern geochemistry requires the use of many sophisticated laboratory instruments. The idea behind GEOS 32700 is to survey the major types of instrumentation used in geochemistry laboratories, including mass spectrometers, electron microscopes, x-ray microanalysis, DNA sequencing, etc. Students should come away from the course with a better appreciation of the inner workings of these instruments rather than treating them as black boxes. As a laboratory portion of the course, students will be trained and do a project using the Tescan SEM-FIB in the Department of the Geophysical Sciences. The course is open to graduate students and advanced undergraduates.

Instructor(s): A. Davis Terms Offered: Autumn

Equivalent Course(s): GEOS 22700

**GEOS 33350. Sea Level Change. 100 Units.**

This course explores the drivers and implications of sea level change. It will cover how and why sea level changes, the difference between global and regional sea level, and how sea level has changed in time. The last part of the class will discuss future sea level rise, uncertainties underlying sea level rise projections, and implications for coastal communities. This course is best suited for advanced undergraduate students with some previous preparation in math, physics, or geophysical sciences, or graduate students interested in climate science, paleoclimate, geodynamics, and glaciology. Prerequisites: Prior knowledge of single- and multi-variable calculus. Prior physics course (e.g. mechanics) and programming experience useful but not required.

Instructor(s): M. Ranganathan Terms Offered: Spring

Prerequisite(s): Prior knowledge of single- and multi-variable calculus. Prior physics course (e.g. mechanics) and programming experience useful but not required.

Equivalent Course(s): GEOS 23350

**GEOS 33600. Chemical Oceanography. 100 Units.**

This course explores the chemistry of the ocean system and its variations in space and time. The oceans play an essential role in most (bio)geochemical cycles, interacting in various ways with the atmosphere, sediments, and crust. These interactions can be understood through studying the geochemical and isotopic properties of the ocean, its inputs and outputs, and its evolution as recorded in marine sediments and sedimentary rocks. Topics include: the marine carbon cycle, nutrient cycling, chemical sediments, and hydrothermal systems.

Instructor(s): C. Blättler Terms Offered: Spring

Prerequisite(s): Completion of one of the following Chemistry Sequences: CHEM 10100-10200-11300 Introductory General Chemistry I-II; Comprehensive General Chemistry III or CHEM 11100-11200-11300 Comprehensive General Chemistry I-II-III or CHEM 12100-12200-12300 Honors General Chemistry I-II-III AND either GEOS 13100 or GEOS 13200.

Equivalent Course(s): GEOS 23600, ENSC 23600, CHEM 13600

**GEOS 33800. Global Biogeochemical Cycles. 100 Units.**

This survey course covers the geochemistry of the surface of the Earth, focusing on biological and geological processes that shape the distributions of chemical species in the atmosphere, oceans, and terrestrial habitats. Budgets and cycles of carbon, nitrogen, oxygen, phosphorus, and sulfur are discussed, as well as chemical fundamentals of metabolism, weathering, acid-base and dissolution equilibria, and isotopic fractionation. The course examines the central role that life plays in maintaining the chemical disequilibria that characterize Earth's surface environments. The course also explores biogeochemical cycles change (or resist change) over time, as well as the relationships between geochemistry, biological (including human) activity, and Earth's climate.

Instructor(s): J. Waldbauer Terms Offered: Spring

Prerequisite(s): CHEM 11100-11200 or consent of instructor

Equivalent Course(s): ENSC 23800, GEOS 23800

**GEOS 33825. Topics in Microbial Biogeochemistry. 100 Units.**

In this seminar we explore the role of microorganisms in biogeochemical cycles. Topics include microbial metabolism, physiology, ecology and evolution in natural habitats, responses to short- and long-term climate change, and coevolution of life and its environment over Earth history. Can be taken multiple times for credit since the specific topic will change each quarter.

Instructor(s): M. Coleman; J. Waldbauer Terms Offered: Spring

**GEOS 33850. Low Temperature Geochemistry. 100 Units.**

This course covers topics related to the geochemistry of Earth's surface, including all its fluid and solid components. Specific emphasis will be placed on stable isotopic tools for understanding modern Earth system processes and the ancient geological record. Seminar format will allow students to choose topics of interest to them and shape the reading and discussion content of the course.

Instructor(s): Clara Blättler Terms Offered: Autumn

Equivalent Course(s): ENSC 33850

**GEOS 33900. Environmental Chemistry. 100 Units.**

The focus of this course is the fundamental science underlying issues of local and regional scale pollution. In particular, the lifetimes of important pollutants in the air, water, and soils are examined by considering the roles played by photochemistry, surface chemistry, biological processes, and dispersal into the surrounding environment. Specific topics include urban air quality, water quality, long-lived organic toxins, heavy metals, and indoor air pollution. Control measures are also considered. This course is part of the College Course Cluster program: Climate Change, Culture, and Society.

Instructor(s): C. Blättler Terms Offered: Autumn

Prerequisite(s): CHEM 11100-11200 or equivalent, and prior calculus course

Equivalent Course(s): GEOS 23900, ENSC 23900

**GEOS 33950. Topics in Organic Geochemistry. 100 Units.**

In this seminar we discuss organic molecules preserved in the geologic record with a focus on reconstructing past life and environments. This course covers a different subject in depth each year. This year's topic is Biomarker Proxy Primer- we will gain an overview of commonly used tools for reconstructing past temperature, hydrology, vegetation, pCO<sub>2</sub>, oxygen, fire, and more. Since the specific topic will change each year, this course can be taken multiple times for credit.

Instructor(s): T. Karp

**GEOS 34220. Climate Foundations. 100 Units.**

This course introduces the basic physics governing the climate of planets, the Earth in particular but with some consideration of other planets. Topics include atmospheric thermodynamics of wet and dry atmospheres, the hydrological cycle, blackbody radiation, molecular absorption in the atmosphere, the basic principles of radiation balance, and diurnal and seasonal cycles. Students solve problems of increasing complexity, moving from pencil-and-paper problems to programming exercises, to determine surface and atmospheric temperatures and how they evolve. An introduction to scientific programming is provided, but the fluid dynamics of planetary flows is not covered. This course is part of the College Course Cluster program: Climate Change, Culture and Society.

Instructor(s): E. Moyer Terms Offered: Autumn

Prerequisite(s): Prior physics course (preferably PHYS 13300 and 14300) and knowledge of calculus required.

Prior programming experience helpful but not required.

Equivalent Course(s): GEOS 24220

**GEOS 34230. Geophysical Fluid Dynamics: Foundations. 100 Units.**

This course is for incoming graduate students in physical sciences intending to take further courses in geophysical fluid dynamics, fluid dynamics, condensed matter physics, and other areas requiring this fundamental skill set. It sets the stage for follow-on courses that present the detail of the behavior of fluids and continuums in geophysical, physical, chemical, and other settings. The material may be a student's first contact with continuum mechanics or a remedial or review for students who have previously taken similar courses. Topics include description of material properties in a continuum, including displacement, velocity, and strain rate; scalar, vector, and tensor properties of continuums, strain, strain rate, and stress; derivations and understanding of mass, momentum, and energy conservation principles in a continuum; applications of conservation principles to simple rheological idealizations, including ideal fluids and potential flow, viscous fluids and Navier-Stokes flow, elasticity and deformation; introductory asymptotic analysis, Reynolds number; heat transfer by conduction and convection, convective instability, Rayleigh number; fluids in gravitational fields, stratification, buoyancy; elliptic, parabolic, and hyperbolic partial differential equations, typical properties of each. Prerequisite(s): Vector calculus, linear algebra, advanced classical mechanics, basic knowledge of computing. Undergrads who take this course should intend to complete a second fluid-dynamics course in Geophysical Sciences.

Instructor(s): N. Nakamura Terms Offered: Autumn

Prerequisite(s): Vector calculus, linear algebra, advanced classical mechanics, basic knowledge of computing.

Undergrads who take this course should intend to complete a second fluid-dynamics course in Geophysical Sciences.

Equivalent Course(s): GEOS 24230

**GEOS 34240. Geophysical Fluid Dynamics: Rotation and Stratification. 100 Units.**

This course is an introduction to geophysical fluid dynamics for upper-level undergraduates and starting graduate students. The topics covered will be the equations of motion, the effects of rotation and stratification, shallow water systems and isentropic coordinates, vorticity and potential vorticity, and simplified equations for the ocean and atmosphere.

Instructor(s): M. Jansen Terms Offered: Winter

Prerequisite(s): PQ: GEOS 24230 or equivalent; Knowledge of mechanics (PHYS 13100 or equivalent), thermodynamics (PHYS 19700 or equivalent), vector calculus and linear algebra (MATH 20000-20100-20200 or equivalent)

Equivalent Course(s): GEOS 24240

**GEOS 34250. Geophysical Fluid Dynamics: Understanding the Motions of the Atmosphere and Oceans. 100 Units.**

This course is part of the atmospheres and oceans sequence (GEOS 24220, 24230, 24240, 24250) and is expected to follow Geophysical Fluid Dynamics: Rotation and Stratification (GEOS 24240). The course demonstrates how the fundamental principles of geophysical fluid dynamics are manifested in the large-scale circulation of the atmosphere and oceans and their laboratory analogs. Topics include: balance of forces and the observed structure of the atmospheric and oceanic circulations, statistical description of the spatially and temporally varying circulation, theory of Hadley circulation, waves in the atmosphere and oceans, baroclinic instability, wind-driven ocean circulation.

Instructor(s): N. Nakamura Terms Offered: Spring

Prerequisite(s): GEOS 24230 and 24240, or consent of the instructor. Knowledge of vector calculus, linear algebra, and ordinary differential equations is assumed.

Equivalent Course(s): GEOS 24250

**GEOS 34270. Air Quality and Climate Change. 100 Units.**

Human activities since the industrial revolution have led to a sharp increase in greenhouse gases and air pollutants. These emissions, after undergoing chemical and physical processes in the atmosphere, cause air pollution and global warming. This course explores the sources, transformations, and fates of key atmospheric constituents and the underlying interactions between atmospheric science and climate change. Topics covered include: atmospheric composition, chemical forcing of climate, stratospheric ozone, tropospheric pollution, atmospheric methane, atmospheric aerosols, and solar geoengineering. The course is appropriate for graduate students and upper-level undergraduates.

Instructor(s): M. Wang Terms Offered: Winter

Prerequisite(s): CHEM 11100-11200 or equivalent

Equivalent Course(s): ENSC 34270

**GEOS 34300. Paleoclimatology. 100 Units.**

This class will cover the theory and reconstruction of the evolution of Earth's climate through geologic time. After reviewing fundamental principles that control Earth's climate, the class will consider aspects of the climate reconstructions that need to be explained theoretically, such as the faint young sun paradox, snowball Earth episodes, Pleistocene glacial / interglacial cycles, and long-term Cenozoic cooling. Then we will switch to a temporal point of view, the history of Earth's climate as driven by plate tectonics and biological evolution, and punctuated by mass extinctions. This will allow us to place the theoretical ideas from the first part of the class into the context of time and biological progressive evolution.

Instructor(s): T. Karp Terms Offered: Winter

Prerequisite(s): One quarter of chemistry

Equivalent Course(s): GEOS 24300

**GEOS 34450. Topics in Aerosols-Cloud-Climate Interactions. 100 Units.**

The major remaining uncertainty in climate projection comes from aerosol-cloud-climate interactions in the atmosphere. Consequently, an accurate representation of aerosols and clouds is the foundation of any effort to predict long-term climate change. In this seminar, we will discuss topics including, but not limited to: (1) chemical and physical processes driving aerosol and cloud formation; (2) ground-based, airborne, and remote measurements of aerosols and clouds; (3) regional and global modeling of preindustrial and present-day aerosol and cloud state; and (4) model validation and climate assessment for climate system engineering technologies (e.g., stratospheric aerosol injection and marine cloud brightening). Specific topics for each seminar will be determined by faculty and student interests.

Instructor(s): M. Wang Terms Offered: Spring

**GEOS 34600. Introduction to Atmosphere, Ocean, and Climate Modeling. 100 Units.**

This hands-on course will discuss how we model atmosphere- ocean- and climate-dynamics using numerical models of varying complexity. We will discuss both the relevant physics as well as numerical techniques, including finite-difference methods for ordinary and partial differential equations, as well as spectral methods. The primary focus of the course will be on relatively simple models, including 1D energy balance models, radiative-convective columns, and quasi-geostrophic models for atmosphere and ocean dynamics, which can be fully understood and applied in the context of a quarter-long course. We will end with an overview of the physics and numerics used in more complex general circulation and coupled climate models. The course will be

structured using a combination of lectures, in-class exercises, and discussion of homework exercises. Homework will include programming exercises as well as simulations and analysis using existing model code.

Instructor(s): M. Jansen Terms Offered: Autumn

Prerequisite(s): Prerequisites: GEOS 24220/34220 "Climate foundations"; knowledge of vector calculus, linear algebra, and partial differential equations; basic knowledge of python (could potentially be replaced by significant programming experience in other languages). Recommended: Geophysical fluid dynamics 24220/34220 and 24240/34240.

Equivalent Course(s): GEOS 24600

#### **GEOS 34705. Energy: Science, Technology, and Human Usage. 100 Units.**

This course covers the technologies by which humans appropriate energy for industrial and societal use, from steam turbines to internal combustion engines to photovoltaics. We also discuss the physics and economics of the resulting human energy system: fuel sources and relationship to energy flows in the Earth system; and modeling and simulation of energy production and use. Our goal is to provide a technical foundation for students interested in careers in the energy industry or in energy policy. Field trips required to major energy converters (e.g., coal-fired and nuclear power plants, oil refinery, biogas digester) and users (e.g., steel, fertilizer production). This course is part of the College Course Cluster program: Climate Change, Culture and Society.

Instructor(s): E. Moyer Terms Offered: Spring

Prerequisite(s): Completion of General Education Physical Sciences Sequence (physics is most relevant) and 2 Quarters of Calculus is recommended.

Equivalent Course(s): CEGU 24705, CCSG 20500, GEOS 24705, ENSC 21100

#### **GEOS 34800. Climate Systems Engineering. 100 Units.**

How might humans use geoscience and engineering to intervene in the climate system with the goal of limiting the impacts of historical carbon emissions? Climate Systems Engineering is the intersection of Climate Systems Science and Systems Engineering. Topics will include (1) solar geoengineering with a focus on stratospheric aerosols, (2) open-system carbon removal such as the addition of alkalinity to soils or directly to the ocean, and (3) local interventions to reduce glacial melting; along with crosscuts on (4) systems engineering and (5) policy implications. Foundational knowledge of climate-related geoscience is a required prerequisite. About a third of class time will be devoted to student presentations and discussion. Class work includes problem sets, peer-graded technical micro-essays, and a collaborative project.

Instructor(s): D. Keith Terms Offered: Autumn

Prerequisite(s): GEOS 13300 The Atmosphere is required. GEOS 24220 Climate Foundations is strongly recommended.

Equivalent Course(s): ENSC 24800, GEOS 24800

#### **GEOS 35400. Intro to Numerical Techniques for Geophysical Sciences. 100 Units.**

This class provides an introduction to different types of numerical techniques used in developing models used in geophysical science research. Topics will include how to interpolate and extrapolate functions, develop functional fits to data, integrate a function, or solve partial differential equations. Students are expected to have some familiarity with computers and programming-programming methods will not be discussed in detail. While techniques will be the focus of the class, we will also discuss the planning needed in developing a model as well as the limitations inherent in such models.

Instructor(s): Ciesla, F. Terms Offered: Winter

Equivalent Course(s): GEOS 25400

#### **GEOS 35450. Foundations of AI for Geosciences. 100 Units.**

Foundations of AI for Geosciences

Instructor(s): P. Hassanzadeh

Equivalent Course(s): GEOS 25450

#### **GEOS 35460. Practical AI Methods in Data and Modeling for Weather and Climate. 100 Units.**

This is a practical course meant to complement theoretical development in "Scientific ML for Climate and Chaos." The student will develop the technical skills to use AI methods to investigate data and to run and analyze AI models in weather and climate. This course will be taught in a hackathon format. We will learn a technique together, then each student will be responsible for defining and complementing an individual project using the technique.

Instructor(s): D. Abbot

Equivalent Course(s): GEOS 25460

#### **GEOS 36000. Morphometrics. 100 Units.**

This graduate-level course serves as an introduction to the field of morphometrics (the analysis of organismal shape). Quantitative exploratory and confirmatory techniques involving both traditional (length-based) and geometric (landmark-based) summaries of organismal shape are introduced in a series of lectures and practical exercises. Emphasis is placed on the application of morphometric methods to issues such as (but not restricted to) quantification of intraspecific variability, interspecific differences, disparity, ontogenetic growth patterns (allometry), and phylogenetic changes in morphology. Relevant statistical and algebraic operations are explained assuming no prior background. Students are required to bring personal laptop computers, and are expected to acquire and analyze their own data sets during the course. (L)

Instructor(s): M. Webster Terms Offered: Winter

Equivalent Course(s): EVOL 36700

**GEOS 36050. Models of Morphological Evolution. 100 Units.**

Over the past 30 years the study of morphological evolution, from inference of evolutionary process to understanding correlated trait changes, has increasingly relied on phylogenetic approaches. This is due to the realization that species may exhibit similar traits due to shared evolutionary history as much as due to similar adaptive responses to other factors. The field of phylogenetic comparative methods is rapidly expanding. This graduate course will cover basic and advanced models of morphological character evolution that underlie comparative methods, as well as the statistical models themselves. Topics covered in this class will span: Brownian motion as a model of quantitative trait evolution; Independent contrasts and evolutionary regressions; Measuring phylogenetic signal; Alternative models of quantitative trait evolution - early bursts, Ornstein-Uhlenbeck processes, and multivariate data; Discrete traits, Markov processes and the threshold model; Phylogenetic analogues of traditional comparative methods (e.g., ANOVA, PCA). Lectures will cover theory behind concepts but students will also be expected to bring laptops to class so as to write code to simulate data and fit statistical models. All coding will be done in the R statistical language.

Instructor(s): G. Slater Terms Offered: Autumn

**GEOS 36100. Phylogenetics and the Fossil Record. 100 Units.**

Phylogenies are branching diagrams that reflect evolutionary relationships. In addition to providing information on the history of life, phylogenies are fundamental to modern methods for studying macroevolutionary and macroecological pattern and process. In the biological sciences, phylogenies are most often inferred from genetic data. In paleobiology, phylogenies can only be inferred from the fossilized remains of morphological structures, and collecting and analyzing morphological data present a different set of challenges. In this course, students will study both traditional and state-of-the-art approaches to inferring phylogenies in the fossil record, from data collection to interpretation. Lectures will explore the statistical underpinnings of phylogenetic methods, as well as their practical implementation in commonly used software. Topics will include: identifying and coding morphological characters, models of morphological evolution, parsimony, maximum likelihood, and bayesian methods, supertree approaches, and integrating time into phylogenetic inference. Fifty percent of the final assessment will come from a research paper due at the end of the quarter.

Instructor(s): G. Slater Terms Offered: Autumn. Course is offered every other year.

Prerequisite(s): BIOS 20197 or equivalent.

Equivalent Course(s): GEOS 26100

**GEOS 36300. Invertebrate Paleobiology and Evolution. 100 Units.**

This course provides a detailed overview of the morphology, paleobiology, evolutionary history, and practical uses of the invertebrate and microfossil groups commonly found in the fossil record. Emphasis is placed on understanding key anatomical and ecological innovations within each group and interactions among groups responsible for producing the observed changes in diversity, dominance, and ecological community structure through evolutionary time. Labs supplement lecture material with specimen-based and practical application sections. Several "Hot Topics" lectures introduce important, exciting, and often controversial aspects of current paleontological research linked to particular invertebrate groups. (L)

Instructor(s): M. Webster Terms Offered: Autumn

Prerequisite(s): GEOS 13100 and 13200 or equivalent; completion of the general education requirement in the Biological Sciences, or consent of instructor.

Equivalent Course(s): BIOS 23261, EVOL 32400, GEOS 26300

**GEOS 36310. Quantitative Paleontology I: Specimen-Based Analysis of the Fossil Record. 100 Units.**

This course shows how the application of quantitative analytical techniques to specimen-based paleontology can improve our understanding of the fossil record and permit rigorous investigation of evolutionary and paleoecological questions. Through a combination of introductory lectures, discussion-based seminars, and practical exercises, the course explores fundamental and cutting-edge topics in paleontology including: morphometric analysis of fossil form; systematics; development and evolution (paleo-evo-devo); paleoecology, biofacies, and paleoenvironmental gradients; stratigraphic paleobiology; and quantitative biostratigraphy. Students will delve into the theory underpinning each topic, and gain hands-on experience with the analytical methods used to interrogate the fossils in their paleoenvironmental and stratigraphic setting.

Instructor(s): M. Webster Terms Offered: Winter

Prerequisite(s): GEOS 26300 Invertebrate Paleobiology and Evolution.

Equivalent Course(s): GEOS 26310

**GEOS 36320. Quantitative Paleontology II: Analysis of taxonomic data. 100 Units.**

This course explores some of the principal ways in which data on taxonomic occurrences and stratigraphic ranges, along with morphological and other ancillary data, can be analyzed to draw inferences regarding evolution in the fossil record. Topics include basic probability theory; evolutionary sequences within single lineages; birth-death models; and models of incomplete sampling. Course goals will be met through a combination of lectures; reading and discussion of key papers; and exercises to develop code and analyze empirical data.

Instructor(s): M Foote, G. Slater Terms Offered: Spring. Spring, alternate years starting in 2026

Prerequisite(s): GEOS 26310/36310 Quantitative Paleontology I: Specimen-Based Analysis of the Fossil Record

Equivalent Course(s): GEOS 26320

**GEOS 36600. Geobiology. 100 Units.**

Geobiology seeks to elucidate the interactions between life and its environments that have shaped the coevolution of the Earth and the biosphere. The course will explore the ways in which biological processes affect the environment and how the evolutionary trajectories of organisms have in turn been influenced by environmental change. In order to reconstruct the history of these processes, we will examine the imprints they leave on both the rock record and on the genomic makeup of living organisms. The metabolism and evolution of microorganisms, and the biogeochemistry they drive, will be a major emphasis.

Instructor(s): M. Coleman, J. Waldbauer

Prerequisite(s): GEOS 13100-13200-13300 or college-level cell & molecular biology

Equivalent Course(s): ENSC 24000, GEOS 26600

**GEOS 36650. Environmental Microbiology. 100 Units.**

The objective of this course is to understand how microorganisms alter the geochemistry of their environment. The course will cover fundamental principles of microbial growth, metabolism, genetics, diversity, and ecology, as well as methods used to study microbial communities and activities. It will emphasize microbial roles in elemental cycling, bioremediation, climate, and ecosystem health in a variety of environments including aquatic, soil, sediment, and engineered systems.

Instructor(s): M. Coleman Terms Offered: Autumn

Prerequisite(s): CHEM 11100-11200 and BIOS 20197, or BIOS 20198

Equivalent Course(s): ENSC 24500, GEOS 26650

**GEOS 36660. Global Change Microbiology. 100 Units.**

This course will examine the fundamental ecophysiological and evolutionary mechanisms that govern how microbes respond to global change across diverse ecosystems. Emphasis will be placed on adaptive and non-adaptive responses across levels of biological organization - from genes and cells to populations and ecosystems - under individual and compounded climate stressors. Lectures will introduce and synthesize advanced concepts in microbial ecophysiology and biogeochemistry, providing the foundation for linking microbial processes to ecosystem-scale feedbacks. Class discussions will center on primary literature that investigates the interplay between climatic factors and microbial community dynamics.

Instructor(s): L. Reji

Prerequisite(s): GEOS 26650/36650, ENSC 24500, or consent of the instructor

Equivalent Course(s): GEOS 26700, ENSC 24550

**GEOS 36700. Taphonomy. 100 Units.**

Lecture and research course on patterns and processes of fossilization, including rates and controls of soft tissue decomposition, post mortem behavior of skeletal hard parts, concentration and burial of remains, scales of time averaging, and the net spatial and compositional fidelity of (paleo)biologic information, including trends across environments and evolutionary time.

Instructor(s): S. Kidwell Terms Offered: Offered in alternate years.

Equivalent Course(s): EVOL 31800

**GEOS 36800. Macroevolution. 100 Units.**

Patterns and processes of evolution above the species level, in both recent and fossil organism. A survey of the current literature, along with case studies.

Instructor(s): D. Jablonski Terms Offered: Spring

Equivalent Course(s): EVOL 31700

**GEOS 36900. Topics in Paleobiology. 100 Units.**

In this seminar we investigate paleobiological or multidisciplinary topics of current interest to students and faculty. Previous subjects include the origin of phyla, historical and macro-ecology, the stratigraphic record and evolutionary patterns, and climate and evolution.

Instructor(s): D. Jablonski; T. Price

Equivalent Course(s): EVOL 31900, ECEV 36900

**GEOS 38300. Time in Stratigraphy. 100 Units.**

This new version of "principles" focuses on (1) recognizing the elapse of time in local sedimentary records, (2) relative age-correlation of rocks across space, and (3) numerical calibration of geologic time scales, all fundamental to paleobiologic, paleoclimatic, and other geohistorical analysis. Issues include assessing the extent of erosional shredding, which removes record, versus simple omission of new record and condensation and/or time-averaging of geo-historical information; how these local processes figure into establishing the relative age relations of strata preserved in disjunct areas; and the evolution of ideas about boundary-defining attributes and the placement of type localities and golden spikes, with the Anthropocene as a good current example. The course will thus complement rather than overlap geochemistry, surface-process, and field courses on paleo-environmental inference. Entails two lectures per week, a one-day (weekend) field trip to learn methods of data collection, and weekly labs on analysis and interpretation, using the professional literature, and report-writing.

Instructor(s): S. Kidwell Terms Offered: Autumn. This course is offered in alternate years.

Prerequisite(s): GEOS 13100-13200 or equivalent required; GEOS 23500 and/or 28200 recommended

Equivalent Course(s): GEOS 28300

**GEOS 38400. Topics in Stratigraphy and Biosedimentology. 100 Units.**

Seminar course using the primary literature and/or a field problem. Topic selected from the rapidly evolving fields of sequence stratigraphy, basin analysis, and animal sediment relationships.

Instructor(s): S. Kidwell Terms Offered: Spring

Equivalent Course(s): EVOL 41500

**GEOS 39700. Reading and Research in the Geophysical Sciences. 300.00 Units.**

GEOS 39700-39799. Topics available include, but are not limited to: Mineralogy, Petrology, Geophysics, High Pressure Geophysics, Geodynamics, Volcanology, Cosmochemistry, Geochemistry, Atmospheric Dynamics, Paleoclimatology, Physical Oceanography, Chemical Oceanography, Paleooceanography, Atmospheric Chemistry, Fluid Dynamics, Glaciology, Climatology, Radiative Transfer, Cloud Physics, Morphometrics, Phylogeny, Analytical Paleontology, Evolution, Taphonomy, Macroevolution, Paleobiology, Aktuopaleontology, Paleobotany, Biomechanics, Paleocology, Tectonics, Stratigraphy.

Instructor(s): Staff Terms Offered: Autumn Spring Summer Winter

Prerequisite(s): Admission to graduate status

**GEOS 39710. Research: Mineralogy. 300.00 Units.**

TBD

**GEOS 39712. Research: Geophysics. 300.00 Units.**

TBD

**GEOS 39715. Advanced Research: Seismology. 300.00 Units.**

Taught at student request with instructor agreement Instructor(s): Staff Terms Offered: Autumn Spring Summer Winter Prerequisite(s): Admission to graduate status

**GEOS 39727. Research: Geochemistry. 300.00 Units.**

Taught at student request with instructor agreement Instructor(s): Staff Terms Offered: Autumn Spring Summer Winter Prerequisite(s): Admission to graduate status

**GEOS 39733. Research: Paleoclimatology. 300.00 Units.**

Taught at student request with instructor agreement Instructor(s): Staff Terms Offered: Autumn Spring Summer Winter Prerequisite(s): Admission to graduate status

**GEOS 39737. Research: Paleooceanography. 300.00 Units.**

Taught at student request with instructor agreement Instructor(s): Staff Terms Offered: Autumn Spring Summer Winter Prerequisite(s): Admission to graduate status

**GEOS 39743. Research: Glaciology. 300.00 Units.**

TBD

**GEOS 39749. Research: Cloud Physics. 300.00 Units.**

Taught at student request with instructor agreement Instructor(s): Staff Terms Offered: Autumn Spring Summer Winter Prerequisite(s): Admission to graduate status

**GEOS 39781. Research: Tectonics. 300.00 Units.**

TBD

**GEOS 39800. Reading and Research in the Geophysical Sciences for the Master's. 300.00 Units.**

An essay or formal thesis will be required.

Instructor(s): Staff Terms Offered: Autumn Spring Summer Winter

Prerequisite(s): admission to grad status

