



NORTHWEST FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE

100 College Boulevard, E. • Niceville, FL 32578-1347 • (850) 678-5111 • www.nwfsc.edu

EARTH SCIENCE (ESC 1000)

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

- Professor: Danko, Staci
- Email: dankos@nwfsc.edu
- Phone: (850) 863-6500-Campus Phone Number
- Office Hours: Please contact instructor for office hours.
- Class Location = Online

INSTRUCTOR COMMUNICATION

Your NWFSC email is the official communication medium of the College. Please check College email regularly for any class and College notifications.

NWFSC states that email is an official form of communication. It is the student's responsibility to make sure their NWFSC email is in working order. Thus, communication relating to class must be done through email. If you are having difficulties with email please contact Technical Services to resolve your account issues. If you have an issue or concern, please email me. I will not respond to personal email accounts. I will not discuss your grade before or after class, please email me if you have a concern about your grade.

Do not expect an instant response through email. Please allow 36 hours during normal business hours. During the weekend, do not expect a response until Monday.

COURSE INFORMATION

- Course Name and Number: ESC 1000
- Class Location: Fort Walton Beach Campus
- Class Modality: Hybrid
- Class Days: Class Week Tuesday 12:00 am- Tuesday 11:59 pm
- Class Times: Tuesday 6:30-7:45 pm
- Online Classroom with Gradebook: Canvas
- Final Exam: May 05,2026- On-Line

COURSE DESCRIPTION

ESC 1000 -- Earth Science. This course introduces materials, processes, and interactions of Earth's global environments - the lithosphere (solid earth), hydrosphere (water earth),

atmosphere (gaseous earth), and biosphere (living earth). It also includes a survey of sciences pertaining to the Earth, including basic astronomy, meteorology, oceanography, and geology.

3.000 Credit hours

3.000 Lecture hours

This course must meet the State of Florida Learning Objectives. The objectives are listed below:

COURSE GOALS

Include broad learning goals such as “Students will develop an appreciation for the Earth and Earth’s processes”

COURSE-LEVEL STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Course-Level Student Learning Outcomes

NS---1: The student will demonstrate an understanding of the scientific method, distinguishing between fact, scientific law, hypotheses, and theory; and recognizing the difference between scientific and non-scientific explanations.

NS---2: The student will interpret data, given in problem form or obtained experimentally, in order to demonstrate problem---solving skills (critical thinking), develop testable explanations, or distinguish the difference between correlation and causation.

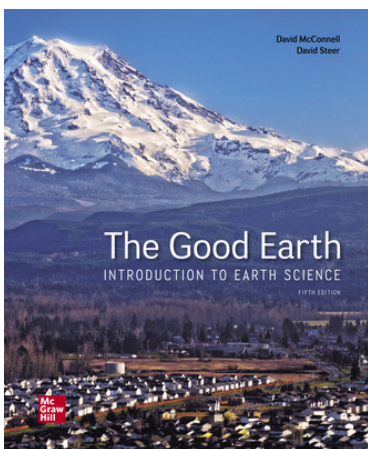
NS---3: The student will demonstrate fundamental knowledge of the terminology, major concepts, and theories of at least one field within the physical sciences, and in the biological sciences.

NS---4: The student will relate scientific discoveries and theories to broader areas of human concern.

COURSE PREREQUISITES

There are no prerequisites for this course.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS



The Good Earth: Introduction to Earth Science, 5th Edition

ISBN10: 1260364127 | ISBN13: 9781260364125

By David McConnell, David Steer, Katharine Owens, Catherine Knight and Lisa Park

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ASSIGNMENTS, GRADING SCHEME AND PROCEDURES

Assignments

Grades will be determined based upon tests, quizzes, homework assignments, case studies and in class videos.

I grade on the point system.

40% Assignments

50% Tests

10% On Line Discussions

Your grades will be available for you to view on Canvas.

Assignment Category	Points/Percentage of Grade	Due Date
Assignments	40%	Class week starts on Tuesday. All work is released at 12:00 am. All work is due 11:59 pm on Monday.
Tests	50%	Class week starts on Tuesday. All work is released at 12:00 am. All work is due 11:59 pm on Monday.
On Line Discussions	10%	Class week starts on Tuesday. All work is released at 12:00 am. All work is due 11:59 pm on Monday.
Total	100	

Grading Scheme

Grade	Range
A	90 – 100 %
B	80 – 89 %
C	70 – 79 %
D	60 – 69 %
F	59 and less %

All exams in this course will require live proctoring. Having reliable internet and a webcam is a necessity for the course. No exam will be administered without proctoring, so please be cognizant of this requirement.

Classroom Conduct

This class is conducted on line, proper on-line and in person etiquette is expected for all students participating in the course. Academic honesty and integrity will be required for all students.

Respectful conversations and interaction among students is also anticipated for a productive on line learning environment.

Technical difficulties

The instructor is not responsible for resolving technical difficulties. This includes lack of internet connectiveness, software platforms, learning management systems and Lockdown Browser/Respondus. If you are experiencing such difficulties please contact IT (not your instructor) for assistance. They are much more equipped to assist you.

How do I contact NWF Learning Technologies Support?

- Call us at [\(850\) 729-6464](tel:850-729-6464)
- Email us at online@nwfsc.edu
- Send us a [support ticket via Fresh Service](#)
- Visit us at [Building 430, Room 100 at the Niceville Campus](#)

Lecture Recordings

Students may, without prior notice, record video or audio of a class lecture for a class in which the student is enrolled for their own personal educational use. A class lecture is defined as a formal or methodical oral presentation as part of a College course intended to present information or teach about a particular subject. Recording class activities other than class lectures is not permitted. Except as detailed in the Catalog, recordings may not be published or shared without the written consent of the faculty member. To read and fully understand your rights and responsibilities when recording, visit the Catalog.

Technical Skills and Specialized Technology

This course is 100% online. Students must provide their own device(s) with which to access and complete this class online. This course can be completed via laptop, personal computer/Chromebook. In addition to baseline word processing skills and sending/receiving email with attachments, students will be expected to search the Internet and upload/download files. If you encounter any technology challenges using course resources in the Learning Management System, email the Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning at online@nwfsc.edu or call 850-729-6464.

In addition, students may need one or more of the following resources:

- [Adobe Acrobat Reader](#)
- [PowerPoint Viewer](#)
- [Windows Media Player](#)
- [QuickTime Player](#)

- [Adobe Flash Player](#)
- [Zoom](#)
- Webcam

Please note that HEIC files are not accepted, please ensure that all files submitted through the duration of the course are NOT HEIC files. HEIC files will not be accepted and the work will not be scored.

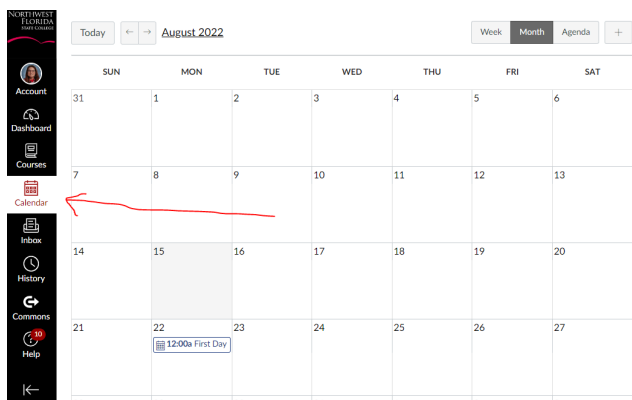
MAKE-UP WORK

Make-up work is not permitted in this course. All assignments must be turned in on time as designated by the due date on-line via Canvas. Towards the end of the semester I will offer a replacement assignment that will replace any grade in the course (test, papers, homework, quizzes ect).

I do not give make up exams. However, as a courtesy, please contact me about a missed quiz/exam. The proper way to notify me is through email. No test will be dropped, so each test counts, however remember the replacement grade policy.

The class will be conducted/released on a week to week basis on Canvas. Any assignment on Canvas will have a clear due date. *There will not be any extended time on any assignment/test/project.* All assignments/tests/projects will be posted and completed on Canvas with adequate time to complete such tasks. Please make sure to budget/manage your time wisely. All weekly assignments will be graded after the due date. Even though Canvas has an auto grader feature, the instructor will review all assignments to ensure grading was correct. Please allow instructor sufficient time to adjust if needed. Answers to assignments will be released upon grade release for all students. Assignments are your “working” study guide for your exams.

To assist you with assignments/ tests. Canvas has a very helpful Calendar feature that allows for due dates to be shown for any course. To access this feature, log on to the Canvas course, click on Calendar, then click on Due Dates. Please see below:



STUDENT EXPECTATIONS AND RESOURCES

NWFSC aims for excellence in education and scholarly pursuits. Campus policies and procedures support this goal by protecting the health, safety, welfare, and property of the College and its students. To view all campus policies, please see the [college catalog](#). Several essential policies are provided below with the corresponding link to the full policy for your review.

NWFSC POLICY	DESCRIPTION
<p>Academic Integrity</p>	<p>Students are expected to behave responsibly as members of the College community and be honest and forthright in their academic endeavors. This includes the use of generative AI tools. Using genAI in any form to substantially complete an assessment is prohibited, except where explicitly allowed by the instructor.</p> <p>Any time the instructor suspects there is a violation of Academic Integrity or there is a reported Academic Integrity Incident, the instructor is required to investigate it as outlined in the Academic Integrity section of the handbook (linked to the left). The instructor will provide information to the student about the procedure, the complaint, the findings, and any consequence imposed.</p> <p>Students are also expected to behave professionally and refrain from disrupting other students' learning environments.</p>
<p>Accommodations</p>	<p>The Accommodation Resource Center at Northwest Florida State College is committed to providing equal access and opportunities for educational success to all students with disabilities as guided by the American Disabilities Act and other disability-related laws.</p>
<p>Attendance</p>	<p>Regular attendance and participation in the course is expected. All students should adhere to the College calendar. For dual enrolled students, high school holidays may not be College holidays.</p>
<p>Tutoring Services</p>	<p>Tutoring services are available in person and online.</p>
<p>Counseling Services</p>	<p>All actively enrolled students can receive an initial assessment and up to five therapeutic sessions with a Behavioral Health provider at no cost to the student.</p>
<p>Student Code of Conduct</p>	<p>Students are expected to adhere to the rules, regulations, and policies outlined in the Student Code of Conduct.</p>
<p>Student Complaints</p>	<p>NWFSC desires to resolve student grievances, complaints, and concerns expeditiously, fairly, and in an amicable manner. A student who desires to resolve a grievance may initiate the resolution process using the information in the link provided to the left.</p>

<u>Student Rights and Responsibilities</u>	All students should review the Student Rights and Responsibilities section of the Student Handbook to understand their role as a student.
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OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

TECHNICAL SKILLS AND SPECIALIZED TECHNOLOGY FOR ONLINE COURSES

This course has an online component. Students must provide their device(s) to access and complete this class online. In addition to baseline word processing skills and sending/receiving emails with attachments, students will be expected to search the Internet and upload/download files. If you encounter technology challenges using course resources in the Learning Management System, email the Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning at online@nwfsc.edu or call 850-729-6464.

EMERGENCY COLLEGE CLOSURE

This course's schedule, requirements, and procedures are subject to change in the event of unusual or extraordinary circumstances. If the College closes for inclement weather or another emergency, any exams, presentations, or assignments previously scheduled during the closure period will automatically be rescheduled for the first regular class meeting held once the college reopens. If changes to graded activities are required, students will not be penalized due to the adjustments but will be responsible for meeting revised deadlines and course requirements.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY TOOLS

Northwest Florida State College subscribes to Turnitin, an online plagiarism detection and prevention service. By enrolling in this class, students consent to upload their papers to Turnitin, where they will be checked for plagiarism. Papers submitted to Turnitin may be saved as source documents within these databases to detect plagiarism in other papers. Please note: All assignments submitted in this course are analyzed for plagiarism and originality.

This course supervises exams through an online proctoring tool that will monitor you while completing course assessments. Northwest Florida State College authorizes the use of approved online proctoring solutions, such as Respondus, to promote academic integrity. These solutions have been approved by NWFSC Academic Affairs and NWFSC IT to be used in course assessments. The Respondus solution may monitor assessments by a variety of means, such as but not limited to, viewing and recording through your computer's webcam, monitoring for noise in the room through your computer's microphone and speaker system, monitoring for other internet usage while taking the assessment, and recording keystroke and visual images. The College has authorized these approved online proctoring providers to perform this service for the purpose of maintaining academic integrity. Information gathered through the proctoring solution is used by the College to ensure academic integrity in testing and may result in a complaint against you under the Academic Integrity Policy or Student Code of Conduct, should the College have reason to believe either policy has been violated. By registering for this course

and maintaining your enrollment and not dropping the course prior to the add/drop deadline, you freely and voluntarily consent to the online proctoring requirement in this course.

ACADEMIC CONTINUITY PLAN

NWFSC is dedicated to protecting the health and well-being of its students, staff, and faculty. The College is dedicated to working with faculty and students to ensure timely course and program completion during emergencies. In the event of a College closure, the format of this course may be modified to enable completion of the course through other means, including but not limited to online course delivery through online classrooms. Check your RaiderNet College email and LMS classroom online for any updates.

WELCOME TO CLASS

Assignment Schedule

Part 1- Introduction to the Earth and Space

Introduction to the course/Explanation of paper requirements/ Email check exercise/Earth Extremes

Earth's Waterways/Biogeochemical cycles

Scientific Method/ Earth Spheres/ Earth Systems. Class discussion

Exam 1- Introduction to Earth Science

Part II- Earth In Space

Old ideas, New Ideas

Astronomical History

Astronomy Theories and Laws.

Origin of the Universe/Size and Distance

Distances in Space

Big Bang Theory

Stars and Planets

Stellar Evolution and Death

The formation of the Solar System. Arrangement of solar system/The Inner Planets/Outer planets.

Earth-Sun- Seasons

Seasons

Near Earth Objects

Asteroids

Meteors

Impact Craters

Exam II -Astronomy.

Part 3- The Earth's Dynamic Atmosphere and Meteorology.

Formation of Earth's Atmosphere/Structure of The Atmosphere.

Finish up the layers of Atmosphere-Northern Lights

Air Masses and Frontal Boundaries. Air Mass Lab.

Precipitation/Lake Effect Snow/Weather Instruments

Severe Weather/Tornadoes.

Hurricanes/ El Nino.

Exam II Atmosphere and Meteorology.

Part 4 Earth Surface Processes

Minerals, What are minerals and how do we ID them?

Rocks/Rock Cycle/Igneous Rocks

Sedimentary Rocks/Sedimentary Process

Sedimentary Structures/Karst Topography

Finish Sedimentary rocks/Metamorphic Rocks.

Glaciers and the Ice Age.

Exam IV= Earth Surface Processes

Part 5 Earth's Interior

Earth's Interior / Seafloor Spreading and Plate Tectonics.

Volcanoes

Earthquakes

Exam V= Earth's Interior

***** Disclaimer= Please note- schedule and assignments are subject to change for class pacing and needs of the students.

WELCOME TO CLASS

Thank you for choosing NWFSC for your education—and welcome to class!