Geophysical Sciences

Program of Study

The Department of the Geophysical Sciences (GEOS) offers unique programs of study in the earth, atmospheric, and planetary sciences. Topics include the physics, chemistry, and dynamics of the atmosphere, oceans, and ice sheets; past and present climate change; the origin and history of the Earth, moon, and meteorites; properties of the deep interior of the Earth and the dynamics of crustal movements; and the evolution and geography of life and the Earth’s surface environments through geologic time. These multidisciplinary topics require an integrated approach founded on mathematics, physics, chemistry, and biology.

Both the BA and BS programs prepare students for careers that draw upon the earth, atmospheric, and planetary sciences. However, the BS degree provides a more focused and intensive program of study for students who intend to pursue graduate work in these disciplines. The BA degree also offers thorough study in the geophysical sciences, but it provides a wide opportunity for elective freedom to pursue interdisciplinary interests, such as environmental policy, law, medicine, business, and precollege education.

Program Requirements for the BA in Geophysical Sciences

The requirements for the BA degree in Geophysical Sciences involve completion of:

- six required courses that fulfill general education requirements for the physical sciences, biological sciences, and mathematics
- eight required science or mathematics courses
- seven elective courses pertinent to the major from the electives lists below, which must include:
  - one course in Computational Sciences (List 2)
  - four 20000-level courses designated GEOS in List 1
  - two more 20000-level science courses from any of Lists 1–2

Candidates for the BA in Geophysical Sciences complete a year of chemistry, a year of physics, a year of mathematics (including Calculus I-II), and a year of biology, GEOS 13900 Biological Evolution and BIOS 20198 Biodiversity).

The requirement for the third quarter of mathematics may be satisfied by either completing the calculus sequence (recommended for students taking the more introductory MATH 13000s sequence but not specifically required or recommended for the higher tracks such as MATH 15000s, as the first two quarters offer a sufficiently comprehensive calculus training for students to move on to other courses) or taking one of the designated mathematical methods courses instead. In addition, students must complete one elective course from Computational Sciences (List 2).

Students are encouraged to begin discipline-specific courses as early as possible. Required disciplinary courses include GEOS 13100 Physical Geology, GEOS 13200 Earth History, and GEOS 13300 The Atmosphere. With prior consent of the departmental counselor, students with the appropriate background may substitute a 20000-level course, which may be taken during or after the third year.

A minimum of six additional 20000-level science courses are required. At least four must be GEOS courses from List 1. Up to two may be chosen from other science courses in List 1. Up to two may be chosen from Computational Sciences (List 2). One may be a field course.

Summary of Requirements for the BA in Geophysical Sciences

GENERAL EDUCATION

One of the following sequences: 200

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sequence</th>
<th>Course Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 10100 &amp; CHEM 10200</td>
<td>Introductory General Chemistry I and Introductory General Chemistry II</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| CHEM 11100-11200 | Comprehensive General Chemistry I-II *
| CHEM 12100 & CHEM 12200 | Honors General Chemistry I and Honors General Chemistry II |

One of the following sequences: 200

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sequence</th>
<th>Course Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| MATH 13100-13200 | Elementary Functions and Calculus I-II *
| MATH 15100-15200 | Calculus I-II |
| MATH 16100-16200 | Honors Calculus I-II |

Both of the following: ** 200

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sequence</th>
<th>Course Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 20198</td>
<td>Biodiversity</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Department Website: http://geosci.uchicago.edu
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GEOS 13900</td>
<td>Biological Evolution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Units</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MAJOR</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOS 13100 &amp; GEOS 13200 &amp; GEOS 13300</td>
<td>Physical Geology and Earth History and The Atmosphere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 11300 or CHEM 12300</td>
<td>Comprehensive General Chemistry III or Honors General Chemistry III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One of the following sequences:</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS 12100-12200-12300</td>
<td>General Physics I-II-III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS 13100-13200-13300</td>
<td>Mechanics; Electricity and Magnetism; Waves, Optics, and Heat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS 14100-14200-14300</td>
<td>Honors Mechanics; Honors Electricity and Magnetism; Honors Waves, Optics, and Heat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One of the following:</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 20000</td>
<td>Mathematical Methods for Physical Sciences I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 20250</td>
<td>Abstract Linear Algebra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS 22000</td>
<td>Introduction to Mathematical Methods in Physics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 13300</td>
<td>Elementary Functions and Calculus III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 15300</td>
<td>Calculus III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 16300</td>
<td>Honors Calculus III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One Computational Sciences course (List 2)</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Six electives as follows: †</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four courses designated GEOS from List 1: Physical and Biological Sciences</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two additional courses from List 1: Physical and Biological Sciences and/or from List 2: Computational Sciences</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Units</td>
<td>1500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Credit may be granted by examination.
** Only Environmental Science and Geophysical Sciences majors may use this pairing to satisfy the general education requirement in the biological sciences. Geophysical Sciences majors can take these courses without the Biological Sciences prerequisites (BIOS 20150-20151) unless they pursue a double major in Biological Sciences. They are expected to show competency in mathematical modeling of biological phenomena covered in BIOS 20151.
† Only one of these electives may be a field course (GEOS 29001, GEOS 29002, GEOS 29005) and only one of these electives may be GEOS 29700 Reading and Research in the Geophysical Sciences.
§ PHYS 13100-13200-13300 or PHYS 14100-14200-14300 are the preferred courses. PHYS 12100-12200-12300 is allowable on a case-by-case basis but may not provide adequate preparation to allow for enrollment in higher level PHYS courses. Additionally, PHYS 12100 has a prerequisite of a year of chemistry. Special petition to the department counselor is required for PHYS 12100-12200-12300 approval.
% Biological Evolution has several cross-listings. Geophysical Sciences majors must register for it under the GEOS 27300 listing.

Program Requirements for the BS in Geophysical Sciences

The requirements for the BS degree in Geophysical Sciences involve completion of:

- six required courses that fulfill general education requirements for the physical sciences, biological sciences, and mathematics
- eight required science or mathematics courses
- ten elective courses pertinent to the major from the electives lists below, which must include:
  - two courses in Computational Sciences (List 2)
  - four 20000-level courses designated GEOS in List 1
- four more 20000-level science courses from any of Lists 1–2: up to three non-GEOS courses from List 1, up to two from List 2

Candidates for the BS in Geophysical Sciences complete a year of chemistry, a year of physics, a year of mathematics (including Calculus I-II), and a year of biology and BIOS 20198 Biodiversity.

The requirement for the third quarter of mathematics may be satisfied by either completing the calculus sequence (recommended for students taking the more introductory MATH 13000s sequence but not specifically required or
recommended for the higher tracks such as MATH 15000s, as the first two quarters offer a sufficiently comprehensive calculus training for students to move on to other courses) or taking one of the designated mathematical methods courses instead. In addition, students must complete two elective courses from Computational Sciences (List 2). The requirements are structured to allow and encourage students to complete sequences that extend through the study of differential equations.

Students are encouraged to begin discipline-specific courses as early as possible. Required disciplinary courses include GEOS 13100 Physical Geology, GEOS 13200 Earth History, and GEOS 13300 The Atmosphere, which is the introductory sequence. With prior consent of the departmental counselor, students with the appropriate background may substitute a 20000-level course, which may be taken during or after the third year.

A minimum of eight additional 20000-level science courses are required. At least four must be GEOS courses from List 1. Up to three may be chosen from other science courses in List 1. Up to two may be chosen from Computational Sciences (List 2). One may be a field course. One may be GEOS 29700 Reading and Research in the Geophysical Sciences.

Summary of Requirements for the BS in Geophysical Sciences

GENERAL EDUCATION

One of the following sequences:

CHEM 10100 & CHEM 10200 Introductory General Chemistry I and Introductory General Chemistry II
CHEM 11100-11200 Comprehensive General Chemistry I-II *
CHEM 12100 & CHEM 12200 Honors General Chemistry I and Honors General Chemistry II

One of the following sequences:

MATH 13100-13200 Elementary Functions and Calculus I-II *
MATH 15100-15200 Calculus I-II
MATH 16100-16200 Honors Calculus I-II

Both of the following: **
BIOS 20198 Biodiversity
GEOS 13900 Biological Evolution

Total Units 700

MAJOR

GEOS 13100 & GEOS 13200 & GEOS 13300 Physical Geology and Earth History and The Atmosphere

CHEM 11300 Comprehensive General Chemistry III *
CHEM 12300 Honors General Chemistry III

One of the following sequences:

PHYS 12100-12200-12300 General Physics I-II-III **§
PHYS 13100-13200-13300 Mechanics; Electricity and Magnetism; Waves, Optics, and Heat
PHYS 14100-14200-14300 Honors Mechanics; Honors Electricity and Magnetism; Honors Waves, Optics, and Heat

One of the following:

MATH 20000 Mathematical Methods for Physical Sciences I
MATH 20250 Abstract Linear Algebra
PHYS 22000 Introduction to Mathematical Methods in Physics
BIOS 20152 Introduction to Quantitative Modeling in Biology (Advanced)
MATH 13300 Elementary Functions and Calculus III *
MATH 15300 Calculus III
MATH 16300 Honors Calculus III

Two Computational Sciences courses from List 2

Eight electives as follows: ‡

Four courses designated GEOS from List 1: Physical and Biological Sciences
Four additional courses from List 1: Physical and Biological Sciences and/or List 2: Computational Sciences, but only up to three courses may be non-GEOS courses from List 1 and only up to two courses may be from List 2.

Total Units 1800
Credit may be granted by examination.

** Only Environmental Science and Geophysical Sciences majors may use this pairing to satisfy the general education requirement in the biological sciences. Geophysical Sciences majors can take these courses without the Biological Sciences prerequisites (BIOS 20150-20151) unless they pursue a double major in Biological Sciences. They are expected to show competency in mathematical modeling of biological phenomena covered in BIOS 20151.

† Only one of these electives may be a field course (GEOS 29001, GEOS 29002, GEOS 29005) and only one of these electives may be GEOS 29700 Reading and Research in the Geophysical Sciences.

§ PHYS 13100-13200-13300 or PHYS 14100-14200-14300 are the preferred courses. PHYS 12100-12200-12300 is allowable on a case-by-case basis but may not provide adequate preparation to allow for enrollment in higher level PHYS courses. Additionally, PHYS 12100 has a prerequisite of a year of chemistry. Special petition to the department counselor is required for PHYS 12100-12200-12300 approval.

% Biological Evolution has several cross-listings. Geophysical Science majors must register for it under the GEOS 27300 listing.

Lists of Elective Courses 1–2

List 1: Physical and Biological Sciences

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Geophysical Sciences</th>
<th>Credit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GEOS 21000 Mineralogy</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOS 21005 Mineral Science</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOS 21100 Introduction to Petrology</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOS 21200 Physics of the Earth</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOS 21205 Introduction to Seismology, Earthquakes, and Near-Surface Earth Seismicity</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOS 21400 Thermodynamics and Phase Change</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOS 22000 Origin and Evolution of the Solar System</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOS 22040 Formation of Planetary Syst. in our Galaxy: From Dust to Planetesimals</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOS 22050 Formation of Planetary Systems in our Galaxy: From Planetesimals to Planets</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOS 22060 What Makes a Planet Habitable?</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOS 22200 Geochronology</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOS 22600 Topics in Earth Science: The Accretion of Extraterrestrial Matter Throughout Earth's History</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOS 23205 Introductory Glaciology</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOS 23400 Global Warming: Understanding the Forecast *</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOS 23800 Global Biogeochemical Cycles</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOS 23805 Stable Isotope Biogeochemistry</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOS 23900 Environmental Chemistry</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOS 24220 Climate Foundations</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOS 24230 Geophysical Fluid Dynamics: Foundations</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOS 24240 Geophysical Fluid Dynamics: Rotation and Stratification</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOS 24250 Geophysical Fluid Dynamics: Understanding the Motions of the Atmosphere and Oceans</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOS 24705 Energy: Science, Technology, and Human Usage</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOS 25400 Intro to Numerical Techniques for Geophysical Sciences</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOS 26100 Phylogenetics and the Fossil Record</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOS 26300 Invertebrate Paleobiology and Evolution</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOS 26600 Geobiology</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOS 26650 Environmental Microbiology</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOS 26905 Topics in Conservation Paleobiology</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOS 28000 Intro To Structural Geology</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOS 28100 Global Tectonics</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOS 28300 Principles of Stratigraphy</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOS 28600 Earth and Planetary Surface Processes</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOS 29700 Reading and Research in the Geophysical Sciences</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Students majoring in Geophysical Science must register for this course as ENSC 25200 or GEOS 23400; they may not register for it as PHSC 13400, which is a version of the course designed to fulfill general education requirements and is not suitable for majors.

Petition to department counselor required to count GEOS 20500 toward degree requirements.

Field Courses in Geophysical Sciences

The department sponsors field trips that range in length from one day to several weeks. Shorter field trips typically form part of lecture-based courses and are offered each year. (The trips are open to all students and faculty if space permits.) Longer trips are designed as undergraduate field courses, and one such course may be used as an elective science course for the major. Destinations of field courses have recently included Baja California, Death Valley, Nevada, Salton Trough, Newfoundland, and the Bahamas.

GEOS 29001 Field Course in Geology 100
GEOS 29002 Field Course in Modern and Ancient Environments 100

Astronomy and Astrophysics

ASTR 24100 The Physics of Stars 100

Biological Sciences*

BIOS 20188 Fundamentals of Physiology 100
BIOS 20189 Fundamentals of Developmental Biology 100
BIOS 20196 Ecology and Conservation 100
BIOS 20200 Introduction to Biochemistry 100
BIOS 21208 Fundamentals of Molecular Biology 100
BIOS 22250 Chordates: Evolution and Comparative Anatomy 100
BIOS 23262 Mammalian Evolutionary Biology 100
BIOS 23266 Evolutionary Adaptation 100
BIOS 23289 Marine Ecology 100
BIOS 23404 Reconstructing the Tree of Life: An Introduction to Phylogenetics 100
BIOS 23406 Biogeography 100
BIOS 25206 Fundamentals of Bacterial Physiology 100

Semester in Environmental Science/MBL

The following courses are the College designations for the Semester in Environmental Science that is taught at the Marine Biological Laboratory (MBL) in Woods Hole, Massachusetts. Registration in ENSC 23820 Biogeochemical Analysis in Terrestrial and Aquatic Ecosystems # Marine Biological Laboratory, ENSC 24100 Ecology - Marine Biological Laboratory, and ENSC 29800 Independent Undergraduate Research in Environmental Sciences # Marine Biological Laboratory, plus one of ENSC 24200 Methods in Microbial Ecology - Marine Biological Laboratory, ENSC 24300 Roles of Animals in Ecosystems # Marine Biological Laboratory, or ENSC 28100 Quantitative Environmental Analyses # Marine Biological Laboratory is required. Admission to the Semester in Environmental Science program is by application, which must be received by the MBL generally in March of the year preceding the start of the semester. Admissions decisions will generally be sent in April. Note that these courses start at the beginning of September, typically four weeks prior to the start of the College’s Autumn Quarter, and are completed by the end of Autumn Quarter. More information on the course content, the application process, and deadlines can be found at college.uchicago.edu/academics/semester-environmental-science-ses. Students participating in the Semester in Environmental Science receive credit for four courses in environmental science.

ENSC 23820 Biogeochemical Analysis in Terrestrial and Aquatic Ecosystems # Marine Biological Laboratory 100
ENSC 24100 Ecology - Marine Biological Laboratory 100
ENSC 24200 Methods in Microbial Ecology - Marine Biological Laboratory 100
ENSC 24300 Roles of Animals in Ecosystems # Marine Biological Laboratory 100
ENSC 28100 Quantitative Environmental Analyses # Marine Biological Laboratory 100
ENSC 29800 Independent Undergraduate Research in Environmental Sciences # Marine Biological Laboratory 100

* Excluding courses used to meet the general education requirement for the biological sciences

Chemistry

CHEM 20100-20200 Inorganic Chemistry I-II 200
CHEM 22000-22100-22200 Organic Chemistry I-II-III 300
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 26100-26200-26300</td>
<td>Quantum Mechanics; Thermodynamics; Chemical Kinetics and Dynamics</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 26700</td>
<td>Experimental Physical Chemistry †</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

† requires CHEM 26100

**Physics**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHYS 18500</td>
<td>Intermediate Mechanics</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS 19700</td>
<td>Statistical and Thermal Physics</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS 22500</td>
<td>Intermediate Electricity and Magnetism I</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS 22700</td>
<td>Intermediate Electricity and Magnetism II</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS 22600</td>
<td>Electronics</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**List 2: Computational Sciences**

**Mathematics**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MATH 20000-20100</td>
<td>Mathematical Methods for Physical Sciences I-II ‡</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 15910 or STAT 24300</td>
<td>Introduction to Proofs in Analysis</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 20250</td>
<td>Abstract Linear Algebra</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 20300</td>
<td>Analysis in $\mathbb{R}^n$ I</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 20400</td>
<td>Analysis in $\mathbb{R}^n$ II</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 20500</td>
<td>Analysis in $\mathbb{R}^n$ III</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 21100</td>
<td>Basic Numerical Analysis</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 27000</td>
<td>Basic Complex Variables</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 27300</td>
<td>Basic Theory of Ordinary Differential Equations</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 27500</td>
<td>Basic Theory of Partial Differential Equations</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 38300</td>
<td>Numerical Solutions to Partial Differential Equations</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Biological Sciences**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 20152</td>
<td>Introduction to Quantitative Modeling in Biology (Advanced)</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Statistics**

Any course in statistics at the 22000 level or higher. Some recommendations follow:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>STAT 22000 or STAT 23400</td>
<td>Statistical Methods and Applications * ‡‡</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 22400</td>
<td>Applied Regression Analysis</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 22600</td>
<td>Analysis of Categorical Data</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 24400-24500</td>
<td>Statistical Theory and Methods I-II ‡‡</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 26100</td>
<td>Time Dependent Data</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Computing**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GEOS 25400</td>
<td>Intro to Numerical Techniques for Geophysical Sciences</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMSC 12100-12200-12300</td>
<td>Computer Science with Applications I-II-III</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMSC 23710</td>
<td>Scientific Visualization</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMSC 28510</td>
<td>Introduction to Scientific Computing</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMSC 34200</td>
<td>Numerical Hydrodynamics</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* AP credit for STAT 22000 does not count toward the major requirements. Students with AP credit for STAT 22000 should plan to take at least one other course from List 2 (BA program) or two other courses from List 2 (BS program).

‡ Recommended prerequisite is MATH 19620 or MATH 15300 or MATH 16300

§§ Would generally substitute for MATH 20000-20100

§§§ Recommended in addition to MATH 20000-20100 for advanced students—covers partial differential equations

‡‡ STAT 23400 has a higher programming component than STAT 22000
Recommended for advanced students. Must be taken as a sequence to be credited. STAT 24400-24500 have no prerequisite but it is possible to take both STAT 23400 and STAT 24400-24500.

Grading

Students majoring in geophysical sciences must receive quality grades in all courses taken to meet requirements in the major.

Honors

The BA or BS degree with honors is awarded to students who meet the following requirements: (1) a GPA of 3.25 or higher in the major and of 3.0 or higher overall; (2) completion of a paper based on original research, supervised and approved by a faculty member in geophysical sciences; (3) an oral presentation of the thesis research. All theses will be examined by the supervisor and a second reader from the faculty. Manuscript drafts will generally be due in the sixth week of the quarter in which the student will graduate (fifth week in Summer Quarter), and final manuscripts and oral presentations in the eighth week (seventh week in Summer Quarter).

Students are strongly encouraged to reach out to potential faculty supervisors no later than their third year, since theses generally arise out of research projects already begun with faculty members. When a thesis topic is determined, students should notify the undergraduate adviser of their intent to complete a thesis and confirm their eligibility.

GEOS 29700 Reading and Research in the Geophysical Sciences can be devoted to the preparation of the required paper; however, students using this course to meet a requirement in the major must take it for a quality grade.

Students who wish to submit a single paper to meet the honors requirement in geophysical sciences and the BA paper requirement in another major should discuss their proposals with the undergraduate advisers from both programs no later than the end of third year. Certain requirements must be met. A consent form, to be signed by the undergraduate advisers, is available from the College adviser. It must be completed and returned to the College adviser by the end of Autumn Quarter of the student’s year of graduation.

Sample BS Programs

Each student will design an individual plan of course work, choosing from a wide range of selections that take advantage of rich offerings from a variety of subdisciplines. The sample programs that appear below are merely for the purpose of illustration; many other variations would be possible. NOTE: Courses that meet general education requirements and are required for the major are not listed.

Environmental Geochemistry

CHEM 26200-26300 Thermodynamics; Chemical Kinetics and Dynamics 200
GEOS 21000 Mineralogy 100
GEOS 23800 Global Biogeochemical Cycles 100
GEOS 23805 Stable Isotope Biogeochemistry 100
GEOS 23900 Environmental Chemistry 100
GEOS 26650 Environmental Microbiology 100
GEOS 28300 Principles of Stratigraphy 100
GEOS 25400 Intro to Numerical Techniques for Geophysical Sciences 100
STAT 23400 Statistical Models and Methods 100

Geochemistry

CHEM 26100-26200-26300 Quantum Mechanics; Thermodynamics; Chemical Kinetics and Dynamics 300
GEOS 21000 Mineralogy 100
GEOS 21100 Introduction to Petrology 100
GEOS 22200 Geochronology 100
GEOS 23800 Global Biogeochemical Cycles 100
GEOS 23900 Environmental Chemistry 100
MATH 20000-20100 Mathematical Methods for Physical Sciences I-II 200

Geophysics

CMSC 12100-12200-12300 Computer Science with Applications I-II-III 300
GEOS 21000 Mineralogy 100
GEOS 21100 Introduction to Petrology 100
GEOS 21200 Physics of the Earth 100
GEOS 21205 Introduction to Seismology, Earthquakes, and Near-Surface Earth Seismicity 100
GEOS 28100 Global Tectonics 100
PHYS 18500 Intermediate Mechanics 100
PHYS 22100 Mathematical Methods in Physics 100
Paleontology

BIOS 23289 Marine Ecology 100
BIOS 23404 Reconstructing the Tree of Life: An Introduction to Phylogenetics 100
GEOS 21000 Mineralogy 100
GEOS 26300 Invertebrate Paleobiology and Evolution 100
GEOS 26600 Geobiology 100
GEOS 28000 Intro To Structural Geology 100
GEOS 28300 Principles of Stratigraphy 100
STAT 22400 Applied Regression Analysis 100
STAT 23400 Statistical Models and Methods 100

Physics of Climate

GEOS 22060 What Makes a Planet Habitable? 100
GEOS 23800 Global Biogeochemical Cycles 100
GEOS 24220 Climate Foundations 100
GEOS 24230 Geophysical Fluid Dynamics: Foundations 100
GEOS 24240 Geophysical Fluid Dynamics: Rotation and Stratification 100
GEOS 24250 Geophysical Fluid Dynamics: Understanding the Motions of the Atmosphere and Oceans 100
MATH 20000-20100 Mathematical Methods for Physical Sciences I-II 200
GEOS 25400 Intro to Numerical Techniques for Geophysical Sciences 100
STAT 23400 Statistical Models and Methods 100

Planetary Science

GEOS 21200 Physics of the Earth 100
GEOS 22000 Origin and Evolution of the Solar System 100
GEOS 22060 What Makes a Planet Habitable? 100
GEOS 22200 Geochronology 100
GEOS 24220 Climate Foundations 100
GEOS 25400 Intro to Numerical Techniques for Geophysical Sciences 100
GEOS 28600 Earth and Planetary Surface Processes 100
ASTR 24100 The Physics of Stars 100
PHYS 18500 Intermediate Mechanics 100
PHYS 22100 Mathematical Methods in Physics 100

Structure/Tectonics

GEOS 21000 Mineralogy 100
GEOS 21100 Introduction to Petrology 100
GEOS 21200 Physics of the Earth 100
GEOS 21205 Introduction to Seismology, Earthquakes, and Near-Surface Earth Seismicity 100
GEOS 28000 Intro To Structural Geology 100
GEOS 28100 Global Tectonics 100
MATH 20000 Mathematical Methods for Physical Sciences I 100
PHYS 18500 Intermediate Mechanics 100
PHYS 22500 Intermediate Electricity and Magnetism I 100
STAT 23400 Statistical Models and Methods 100

Geophysical Sciences Courses

GEOS 13100. Physical Geology. 100 Units.
This course introduces plate tectonics; the geologic cycle; and the internal and surface processes that make minerals and rocks, as well as that shape the scenery. Topics include: planetary geophysics; evidence leading to the theory of plate tectonics; natural hazards including earthquakes and volcanoes; economic geology including energy resources, ores, and mineral resources; crustal deformation and mountain building; and surface processes (erosion, groundwater). Laboratory exercises introduce identifying features of rocks and minerals, and interpreting geological maps. Biweekly writing assignments explore topics in geology that are supplemental to the lecture material. (L)
Instructor(s): D. Rowley Terms Offered: Autumn
GEOS 13200. Earth History. 100 Units.
This course covers principles of historical inference in Earth science; the physical, chemical, and biological data that are used to reconstruct Earth history; and the geographic, biotic, and environmental development of Earth. Weekly labs focus on observation and interpretation of sedimentary rocks and fossil assemblages in hand samples. A required one-day field trip introduces students to observation and interpretation of sedimentary rocks at the outcrop scale. (L)
Instructor(s): M. Foote Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): GEOS 13100

GEOS 13300. The Atmosphere. 100 Units.
This course introduces the physics, chemistry, and phenomenology of the Earth's atmosphere, with an emphasis on the fundamental science that underlies atmospheric behavior and climate. Topics include (1) atmospheric composition, evolution, and structure; (2) solar and terrestrial radiation in the atmospheric energy balance; (3) the role of water in determining atmospheric structure; and (4) wind systems, including the global circulation, and weather systems.
Instructor(s): D. Abbot Terms Offered: Spring
Prerequisite(s): MATH 13100-MATH 13200
Equivalent Course(s): ENST 13300, ENSC 13300

GEOS 13400. Global Warming: Understanding the Forecast. 100 Units.
This course presents the science behind the forecast of global warming to enable the student to evaluate the likelihood and potential severity of anthropogenic climate change in the coming centuries. It includes an overview of the physics of the greenhouse effect, including comparisons with Venus and Mars; an overview of the carbon cycle in its role as a global thermostat; predictions and reliability of climate model forecasts of the greenhouse world. This course is part of the College Course Cluster program, Climate Change, Culture, and Society. (L)
Instructor(s): D. MacAyeal, D. Abbot Terms Offered: Autumn Spring
Prerequisite(s): Some knowledge of chemistry or physics helpful.
Equivalent Course(s): ENSC 13400, ENST 12300, PHSC 13400

GEOS 13606. Natural Disasters: Science, Statistics, and Minimizing Risk. 100 Units.
This course investigates the mechanisms behind hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, and other natural hazards, and how to minimize the risks they can pose. First, we will apply the fundamental principles of physics, chemistry, and biology to understand the earth's climate, geology, and oceans, and how their conditions can become hazardous. Then we will apply this knowledge through physical experiments in the lab, 2D and 3D plots of data fields, and computer-assisted mathematical analysis. We will also explore how to use statistics to assess risk when we analyze data collected about hazards. By the end of the course, students will understand the nature of natural hazards as well as basic strategies for tackling complex scientific problems. Taught by two leading professors in the field, this will be an ideal course for students considering a STEM career, especially those wanting to apply hard science to real-world problems.

GEOS 13900. Biological Evolution. 100 Units.
This course is an introduction to evolutionary processes and patterns in present-day organisms and in the fossil record and how they are shaped by biological and physical forces. Topics emphasize evolutionary principles. They include DNA and the genetic code, the genetics of populations, the origins of species, and evolution above the species level. We also discuss major events in the history of life, such as the origin of complex cells, invasion of land, and mass extinction. This course is part of the College Course Cluster program: Climate Change, Culture and Society. (L)
Instructor(s): D. Jablonski Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): BIOS 10130; No Biological Sciences majors except by petition to the BSCD Senior Advisers.
Equivalent Course(s): BIOS 13123

GEOS 21000. Mineralogy. 100 Units.
This course covers structure, chemical composition, stability, and occurrence of major rock-forming minerals. Labs concentrate on mineral identification with the optical microscope. (L)
Instructor(s): A. Campbell Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): GEOS 31000

GEOS 21005. Mineral Science. 100 Units.
This course examines the relationship between the structure of minerals, their chemistry, and their physical properties. Topics include crystallography, defect properties, phase transitions, and analytical tools, followed by detailed study of specific mineral groups.
Instructor(s): A. Campbell Terms Offered: Winter. not offered 2017-2018
Prerequisite(s): GEOS 21000 or consent of instructor.
Equivalent Course(s): GEOS 31005

GEOS 21100. Introduction to Petrology. 100 Units.
Students in this course learn how to interpret observable geological associations, structures, textures, and mineralogical and chemical compositions of rocks so as to develop concepts of how they form and evolve. Our theme is the origin of granitic continental crust on the only planet known to have oceans and life. Igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic rocks; ores; and waste disposal sites are reviewed. (L)
Instructor(s): N. Dauphas Terms Offered: Spring
Prerequisite(s): GEOS 21000
GEOS 21200. 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 31200

GEOS 21205. Introduction to Seismology, Earthquakes, and Near-Surface Earth Seismicity. 100 Units.
This course introduces the mechanics and phenomenology of elastic waves in the Earth and in the fluids near the Earth's surface (e.g., S and P waves in the solid earth, acoustic waves in the ocean and atmosphere). Topics include stress and strain, constitutive equations, elasticity, seismic waves, acoustic waves, theory of refraction/reflection, surface waves, dispersion, and normal modes of the Earth. Phenomenology addressed includes exploration geophysics (refraction/reflection seismology), earthquakes and earthquake source characterization, seismograms as signals, seismometers and seismological networks, and digital seismogram analysis.
Instructor(s): D. Heinz Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): GEOS 31205

GEOS 21400. Thermodynamics and Phase Change. 100 Units.
This course develops the mathematical structure of thermodynamics with emphasis on relations between thermodynamic variables and equations of state. These concepts are then applied to homogeneous and heterogeneous phase equilibrium, culminating in the construction of representative binary and ternary phase diagrams of petrological significance.
Instructor(s): A. Campbell Terms Offered: Spring
Prerequisite(s): MATH 20000-20100-20200 and college-level chemistry and calculus, or consent of instructor.
Equivalent Course(s): GEOS 31400

GEOS 22040. Formation of Planetary Syst. in our Galaxy: From Dust to Planetesimals. 100 Units.
This course examines the physical and chemical processes that operate during the earliest stages of planet formation when dust in a protoplanetary disk aggregates into bodies 1 to 10 km in size. Topics include the physical and chemical evolution of protoplanetary disks, radial transport of dust particles, transient heating events, and the formation of planetesimals. We discuss the evidence of these processes found in meteorites and observed in disks around young stars. Chemical and physical models of dust evolution are introduced, including an overview of basic numerical modeling techniques.
Instructor(s): F. Ciesla Terms Offered: Not offered 2017-2018
Prerequisite(s): One year of college-level calculus and physics or chemistry, or consent of instructor.
Note(s): This course is offered in alternate years.
Equivalent Course(s): GEOS 32040

GEOS 22050. Formation of Planetary Systems in our Galaxy: From Planetesimals to Planets. 100 Units.
This course explores the stage of planet formation during which 1 to 10 km planetesimals accrete to form planets. Topics include heating of planetesimals, models of giant planet formation, the delivery of water to terrestrial planets, and the impact that stellar mass and external environment have on planet formation. We also discuss what processes determine the properties (mass, composition, and orbital parameters) of a planet and its potential for habitability. Basic modeling techniques and current research papers in peer-reviewed journals are also discussed.
Instructor(s): F. Ciesla Terms Offered: Not offered 2017-2018
Prerequisite(s): Consent of instructor
Equivalent Course(s): GEOS 32050

GEOS 22060. What Makes a Planet Habitable? 100 Units.
This course explores the factors that determine how habitable planets form and evolve. We will discuss a range of topics, from the accretion and loss of atmospheres and oceans, to the long-term carbon cycle, climate dynamics, and the conditions that sustain liquid water on a planet's surface over timescales relevant to the origin and evolution of life. Students will be responsible for reading and discussing papers in peer-reviewed journals each meeting and for periodically preparing presentations and leading the discussion. This course is part of the College Course Cluster program: Climate Change, Culture and Society.
Instructor(s): Edwin Kite Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): ASTR 45900, GEOS 32060

GEOS 22200. 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). Prerequisite(s): Background in college-level geology, physics, and mathematics. Equivalent Course(s): GEOS 32200
Instructor(s): N. Dauphas Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): Background in college-level geology, physics, and mathematics.
Equivalent Course(s): GEOS 32200
GEOS 22600. 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 32600

GEOS 22700. 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): Andrew M. Davis & Michael J. Pellin Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): GEOS 32700

GEOS 23205. Introductory Glaciology. 100 Units.
The fundamentals of glacier and ice-sheet dynamics and phenomenology will be covered in this introductory course (snow and sea ice will be excluded from this course, however may be taken up in the future). Emphasis will be placed on developing the foundation of continuum mechanics and viscous fluid flow as a means of developing the basic equations of glacier deformation, ice-sheet and -shelf flow, basal processes, glacier hydrology, and unstable modes of flow. This course is intended for advanced undergraduate students in physics, math, geophysical sciences, and related fields as well as graduate students considering research in glaciology and climate dynamics. This course is part of the College Course Cluster program: Climate Change, Culture, and Society.
Instructor(s): D. MacAyeal Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): Knowledge of vector calculus, linear algebra, and computer programming.
Equivalent Course(s): GEOS 33205

GEOS 23800. 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, phosphorous, 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: Winter
Prerequisite(s): CHEM 11100-11200 or consent of instructor
Equivalent Course(s): GEOS 33800, ENSC 23800

GEOS 23900. 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): A. Colman, D. Archer Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): CHEM 11101-11201 or equivalent, and prior calculus course
Equivalent Course(s): ENST 23900, GEOS 33900, ENSC 23900

GEOS 24200. Fundamentals of Geophysical Fluid Dynamics. 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): D. Abbot Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): Knowledge of vector calculus, linear algebra, or consent of instructor
Equivalent Course(s): GEOS 34200
GEOS 24220. 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. (L)
Instructor(s): Liz Moyer Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): Prior physics course (preferably PHYS 13300 and 14300) and knowledge of calculus required; prior geophysical sciences course not required.
Note(s): Prior programming experience helpful but not required.
Equivalent Course(s): GEOS 34220

GEOS 24230. 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): D. MacAyeal 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 34230

GEOS 24240. 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): T. Shaw 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 34240

GEOS 24250. 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 34250

GEOS 24260. Radiation. 100 Units.
Develops the theory of radiation emission, absorption, and scattering by planetary atmospheres. Emphasis on the derivation and solution of the radiative transfer equation for plane parallel, horizontally homogeneous atmospheres.
Instructor(s): D. Abbot
Prerequisite(s): Advanced undergraduate level knowledge of electromagnetic theory, atomic structure, and differential equations.
Note(s): Not offered 2018-2019
Equivalent Course(s): GEOS 34260
GEOS 24705. 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): M. Webster Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): GEOS 13100 and 13200, or equivalent. Students majoring in Biological Sciences only; Completion of the general education requirement in the Biological Sciences, or consent of instructor.
Equivalent Course(s): GEOS 36300, EVOL 32400, BIOS 23261

GEOS 24750. Earth and Human System Science: Food, Energy, and Water Cycles. 100 Units.
Earth system science should now explicitly include human activities, since humans both affect many major biogeochemical cycles on Earth, and human societies are dependent on those cycles. One third of the Earth’s surface is now used for production of food for humans, and waste product of human energy use affects the Earth’s radiative balance. This course provides a framework for understanding humanity as a component of Earth system science. The course covers the Earth’s energy flows and water and carbon cycles, their interactions, and the role that humans play in modifying them. Both agriculture and energy technologies can be seen as appropriation of natural energy flows, and we cover the history over which humans have become a global force. The course merges geophysical and biological sciences and engineering, and includes lab sessions and field trips to agriculture, water management, and energy facilities to promote intuition. One year of university-level science is recommended.
Instructor(s): E. Moyer Terms Offered: Spring
Note(s): Not offered in Spring 2019. See GEOS 24750/ENSC 21150.
Equivalent Course(s): GEOS 34705, ENSC 21100, ENST 24705

GEOS 25400. 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): E. Moyer Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): Familiarity with physics and biology at least at high school level

GEOS 26100. 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
Prerequisite(s): BIOS 20197 or equivalent.
Equivalent Course(s): GEOS 36100

GEOS 26300. 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. An optional field trip offers experience in the collection of specimens and raw paleontological data. 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. Students majoring in Biological Sciences only; Completion of the general education requirement in the Biological Sciences, or consent of instructor.
Equivalent Course(s): GEOS 36300, EVOL 32400, BIOS 23261
GEOS 26600. 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): GEOS 36600, ENSC 24000

GEOS 26650. 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 20186 or BIOS 20197 or BIOS 20198
 Equivalent Course(s): ENSC 24500, GEOS 36650

GEOS 26905. Topics in Conservation Paleobiology. 100 Units.
Paleobiological data from very young sedimentary records, including skeletal 'death assemblages' actively accumulating on modern land surfaces and seabeds, provide unique information on the status of present-day populations, communities, and biomes and their responses to natural and anthropogenic stress over the last few decades to millennia. This course on the emerging discipline of 'conservation paleobiology' uses weekly seminars and individual research projects to introduce how paleontologic methods, applied to modern samples, can address critical issues in the conservation and restoration of biodiversity and natural environments, including such basic questions as 'has a system changed, and if so how and when relative to suspected stressors?'. The course will include hands-on experience, either in the field or with already-collected marine benthic samples, to assess societally relevant ecological change in modern systems over time-frames beyond the reach of direct observation. Enrollment limited.
Instructor(s): S. Kidwell
Equivalent Course(s): EVOL 36905, GEOS 36905

GEOS 27100. Biological Evolution and the History of Life. 100 Units.
This course is an overview of evolutionary processes and patterns in present-day organisms and in the fossil record and how they are shaped by biological and physical forces. Topics emphasize evolutionary principles. They include DNA and the genetic code, the genetics of populations, the origins of species, and evolution above the species level. We also discuss major events in the history of life, such as the origin of complex cells, invasion of land, and mass extinctions. Aimed at GEOS and ENSC majors, this course differs from GEOS 13900 in requiring a term paper, topic chosen from a list provided by the instructor (L).
Instructor(s): D. Jablonski
Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): BIOS 10130; No Biological Sciences majors except by petition to the BSCD Senior Advisers.

GEOS 28000. Intro To Structural Geology. 100 Units.
This course explores the deformation of the Earth materials primarily as observed in the crust. We emphasize stress and strain and their relationship to incremental and finite deformation in crustal rocks, as well as techniques for inferring paleostress and strain in deformed crustal rocks. We also look at mesoscale to macroscale structures and basic techniques of field geology in deformed regions.
Instructor(s): D. Rowley
Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): GEOS 13100
Note(s): This course is offered in alternate years.
Equivalent Course(s): GEOS 38000

GEOS 28100. Global Tectonics. 100 Units.
This course reviews the spatial and temporal development of tectonic and plate tectonic activity of the globe. We focus on the style of activity at compressive, extensional, and shear margins, as well as on the types of basin evolution associated with each. (L)
Instructor(s): D. Rowley
Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): GEOS 13100 or consent of instructor
Note(s): This course is offered in alternate years.
Equivalent Course(s): GEOS 38100
GEOS 28300. Principles of Stratigraphy. 100 Units.
This course introduces principles and methods of stratigraphy. Topics include facies analysis, physical and biostratigraphic correlation, and development and calibration of the geologic time scale. We also discuss controversies concerning the completeness of the stratigraphic record; origin of sedimentary cycles; and interactions between global sea level, tectonics, and sediment supply. (L)
Instructor(s): S. Kidwell Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): GEOS 13100-13200 or equivalent required; GEOS 23500 and/or 28200 recommended
Note(s): This course is offered in alternate years.
Equivalent Course(s): GEOS 38300

GEOS 28600. Earth and Planetary Surface Processes. 100 Units.
The focus of this course is geomorphology, both of the Earth and other planets. Moving from the controls on planetary-scale topography down to the scale of individual streams and hillslopes, the course will emphasize fluvial and aeolian sediment transport, and landscape evolution.
Instructor(s): E. Kite Terms Offered: Winter

GEOS 29001. Field Course in Geology. 100 Units.
Students in this course visit classic locations to examine a wide variety of geological environments and processes, including active tectonics, ancient and modern sedimentary environments, and geomorphology.
Prerequisite(s): GEOS 13100-13200 and consent of instructor
Note(s): Interested students should contact the departmental counselor.
Equivalent Course(s): GEOS 39001

GEOS 29002. Field Course in Modern and Ancient Environments. 100 Units.
This course uses weekly seminars during Winter Quarter to prepare for a one-week field trip over spring break, where students acquire experience with sedimentary rocks and the modern processes responsible for them. Destinations vary; past trips have examined tropical carbonate systems of Jamaica and the Bahamas and subtropical coastal Gulf of California. We usually consider biological, as well as physical, processes of sediment production, dispersal, accumulation, and post-depositional modification.
Instructor(s): S. Kidwell, M. LaBarbera Terms Offered: Winter
Note(s): Organizational meeting and deposit usually required in Autumn Quarter; interested students should contact an instructor in advance.
Equivalent Course(s): GEOS 39002, ENSC 29002

GEOS 29003. Field Course in Oceanography. 100 Units.
Students in this course spend roughly a week sailing a tall ship from the SEA education program, learning oceanographic sampling techniques and data interpretation as well as principles of navigation and seamanship.
Terms Offered: not offered 2015-2016
Prerequisite(s): Consent of instructor
Note(s): Interested students should contact the departmental counselor.

GEOS 29700. Reading and Research in the Geophysical Sciences. 100 Units.
Independent study; regular meetings with Geophysical Sciences faculty member required. 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, Paleoceanography, Atmospheric Chemistry, Fluid Dynamics, Glaciology, Climatology, Radiative Transfer, Cloud Physics, Morphometrics, Phylogeny, Analytical Paleontology, Evolution, Taphonomy, Macroevolution, Paleobiology, Paleobotany, Biomechanics, Paleoclimatology, Tectonics, Stratigraphy.
Instructor(s): Staff Terms Offered: Autumn, Spring, Summer, Winter
Prerequisite(s): Consent of instructor and departmental counselor
Note(s): Students are required to submit the College Reading and Research Course Form. Available to nonmajors for P/F grading. Must be taken for a quality grade when used to meet a requirement in the major.
Font Notice

This document should contain certain fonts with restrictive licenses. For this draft, substitutions were made using less legally restrictive fonts. Specifically:

- Times was used instead of Trajan.
- Times was used instead of Palatino.

The editor may contact Leepfrog for a draft with the correct fonts in place.