

ESCI 4301 – ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE SENIOR PROJECT – SPRING 2022 v1

Note, it is very likely the schedule will be changed based on your progress

Meeting times: Monday and Wednesday 12:00 to 1:30

Instructor: Dr. Richard Langford, GEOL 401B; 747-5968, Langford@utep.edu;

Office hours: M-W 10:30 to 12:00 appointment

Textbook: None required. You will need access to a statistical package that you are familiar with.

Goals: The major component of class will focus on a senior project that will consist of working in a team to write a professional report focused on a dataset you be given from various datasets. You will review available literature. Your project will culminate in a final report as well as a group presentation. I will be checking on your project every two weeks

Grading:

Assignments, presentations	15%
Class participation and attendance, which will be recorded daily*	15%
Group project (written part)	40%
Group project (oral part)	20%
Peer evaluation*	10%

*We will work together to define what will be expected for your participation and evaluation grades.

Participation.

You are expected to 1) attend the class meeting every week. 2) Stay in touch (calls preferred) on any problems or ideas you might have. 3) stay in touch if you are not meeting class goals. 4) participate with your groupmates and contribute. You will be asked what percentage each of you contributed to the project at the end of the class.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Week	Date	Topic	Project Goals	Readings
1	Jan 19	Introduction to the problem and dataset. How to use shared files and folders.	Begin Introduction. Start working on state of knowledge. Find a source to add to the paper.	Week 1 Readings on Climate and drought
2	Jan 24	A brief introduction to QA and QC establishing standards.	Keep working on Introduction. Start first Draft of Hypotheses and Objectives	EPA Resources Guidelines for choosing a sampling design

3	Jan 31	Reviewing the literature	Adding Additional sources, finish Introduction	
4	Feb 7	Writing part 1 (Guidelines for writing a professional report; dataset development)	First Draft Evaluation and editing. Data QC	References on Writing, White and Strunk, Turabian.
5	Feb 14	Descriptive statistics, basic data analysis (correlation, regression)	Finish sampling plan	
6	Feb 21	Writing part 2 (citing the literature; paragraphs)		
7	Feb 28	Significance and ANOVA and similar tests.	Paper Evaluation Part 2.	
8	Mar 7	Introduction to multivariate statistics		
	Mar 14	Spring Break – no classes		
9	Mar 21	Making and Interpreting Graphs and Figures		
10	Mar 28	Making and Interpreting Tables		
11	April 4	Result Interpretation 1		
12	April 11	Result Interpretation 2		
13	April 18	Writing part 3	Peterson	Peterson
14	April 21	First Presentations April 30		
15	April 28	Presentations	Final report due on 29th	
16	May 2			
17	May 10	Final Exam Week		

UTEP and Course Policies

Technology Requirements

Some of this course content is delivered via the Internet through the Blackboard learning management system. Ensure your UTEP e-mail account is working and that you have access to the Web and a stable web browser. Google Chrome and Mozilla Firefox are the best browsers for Blackboard; other browsers may cause complications. If you have technical problems, 1) update your browser, 2) make sure it is blackboard compatible (most are), 3) clear your cache, finally 4) try switching to another browser.

You will need to have access to a computer/laptop, and a cellular phone. You will need to download or update the following software: a **word processing software** like Microsoft Office, **Adobe Acrobat Reader, a Media Player, QuickTime, Excel, and Powerpoint, and Google Earth**. Check that your computer hardware and software are up-to-date and able to access all parts of the course. We will also use some specialized software for this course that is free and open source. I

If you do not have a word-processing software, you can download Word and other Microsoft Office programs (including Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook and more) for free via UTEP's Microsoft Office Portal. Click the following link for more information about [Microsoft Office 365](#) and follow the instructions.

IMPORTANT: If you encounter technical difficulties beyond your scope of troubleshooting with standard software, please contact the UTEP [Help Desk](#) as they are trained in assisting with technological needs of students. You are also welcome to call me. Don't waste a lot of time trying to get your computer to work. (I know I do this sometimes)

Online Etiquette

As we know, sometimes communication online can be challenging. It's possible to miscommunicate what we mean or to misunderstand what our classmates mean given the lack of body language and immediate feedback. Therefore, please keep these netiquette (network etiquette) guidelines in mind. Failure to observe them may result in disciplinary action.

- Always consider your classmates. This is a college-level course; therefore, all communication should reflect polite consideration of other's ideas.
- Respect and courtesy must be provided to classmates and to the instructor at all times. No harassment or inappropriate postings will be tolerated.
- When reacting to someone else's message, address the ideas, not the person. Post only what anyone would comfortably state in a face-to-face situation.
- Blackboard is not a public internet venue; all postings to it should be considered private and confidential. Whatever is posted on in these online spaces is intended for classmates and professor only. Please do not copy documents and paste them to a publicly accessible website, blog, or other space.

Make-up Policy

If you are going to be absent for any classwork, let me know well in advance and we will do everything we can to make an accommodation. If you miss an exam or field trip without notice no makeup will be allowed. Note, if you are feeling ill, don't come to class or campus. Do call me before class and we can discuss how to take your exam or complete your assignment.

Alternate Means of Submitting Assignments in Case there are Technical Issues

I strongly suggest that you submit your work with time to spare in the event that you have a problem with the internet or the UTEP blackboard or your computer. **SAVE YOUR WORK**. Onedrive is a good system for making sure your work doesn't disappear, and if you successfully upload to Blackboard it is good at not losing anything. This way, you will have evidence that you completed the work and will not lose credit. If you are experiencing difficulties submitting your work through the course website, please contact the UTEP Help Desk. You can call or email me your work as a last resort.

Academic Integrity and Disruptive Behavior

Students are encouraged to collaborate in class and on class assignments. I am happy to have you help each other learn. But anything you turn in must be your own work unless it is specifically labeled a group project. You are also strongly encouraged to form study groups and make this class a team effort. However, academic dishonesty (plagiarism, copying, etc.) will not be tolerated. Students will adhere to UTEP's academic integrity policy:

Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another as ones' own. Collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. All suspected violations of academic integrity at The University of Texas at El Paso must be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR) for possible disciplinary action. To learn more, please visit [HOOP: Student Conduct and Discipline.](http://academics.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=23785)

Civility

This class requires group interactions during our online meetings, and you are expected to participate in class when called on. This does not give you permission to talk in class, use your cell phone, etc. Use common sense for group interactions!

Students with Disabilities Accommodations

If you think you have a disability or if you are experiencing some learning difficulties, please contact the Center for Accommodation and Support Services (CASS) at 915-747-5148, or see them in person in Union East Room 106. They will provide any necessary accommodations. You should also meet with your instructor in order to facilitate your needs. Please provide proper documentation of your disability and needs.

COVID-19 Accommodations

Students are not permitted on campus when they have a positive COVID-19 test, exposure or symptoms. If you are not permitted on campus, you should contact me as soon as possible so we can arrange necessary and appropriate accommodations.

Military Service: If you are in the military and service or training may take you out of town, please advise the instructor and we'll work out an accommodation if at all possible, but you'll need to let the instructor know well in advance.

Course Drop Policy – According to UTEP Curriculum and Classroom Policies, “When, in the judgment of the instructor, a student has been absent to such a degree as to impair his or her status relative to credit for the course, the instructor may drop the student from the class with a grade of “W” before the course drop deadline and with a grade of “F” after the course drop deadline.” **If you are not active in the first five weeks of the class and in my judgement you are unable to complete the course with a passing grade, I will drop you from the course. However, otherwise I will not drop you from the course.** However, if you feel that you are unable to complete the course successfully, please let me know and then contact the [Registrar's Office](#) to initiate the drop process. If you do not, you are at risk of receiving an “F” for the course. I will do my best to make sure that you have a good understanding of your progress and grade in the class..

Copyright Statement for Course Materials

All materials used in this course are protected by copyright law. The course materials are only for the use of students currently enrolled in this course and only for the purpose of this course. They may not be further disseminated.

Covid-19 Precautions

You must STAY AT HOME and REPORT if you (1) have been diagnosed with COVID-19, (2) are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, or (3) have had recent contact with a person who has received a positive coronavirus test. Reports should be made at screening.utep.edu. If you know of anyone who should report any of these three criteria, you should encourage them to report. If the individual cannot report, you can report on their behalf by sending an email to COVIDaction@utep.edu.

For each day that you attend campus—for any reason—you must complete the questions on the UTEP screening website (screening.utep.edu) prior to arriving on campus. The website will verify if you are permitted to come to campus. Under no circumstances should anyone come to class when feeling ill or exhibiting any of the known COVID-19 symptoms. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, and alternative instruction will be provided. Students are advised to minimize the number of encounters with others to avoid infection.

Wear face coverings when in common areas of campus or when others are present. You must wear a face covering over your nose and mouth at all times in this class. If you choose not to wear a face covering, you may not enter the classroom. If you remove your face covering, you will be asked to put it on or leave the classroom. Students who refuse to wear a face covering and follow preventive COVID-19 guidelines will be dismissed from the class and will be subject to disciplinary action according to Section 1.2.3 *Health and Safety* and Section 1.2.2.5 *Disruptions* in the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures.

(classes with on-campus meetings) Please note that if COVID-19 conditions deteriorate in the City of El Paso, all course and lab activities may be transitioned to remote delivery.

Resources for Students

If you have with any facet of this class, you can always come to me, or you can try some of the many resources that UTEP provides .

Technology Resources

- [Help Desk](#): Students experiencing technological challenges (email, Blackboard, software, etc.) can submit a ticket to the UTEP Helpdesk for assistance. Contact the Helpdesk via phone, email, chat, website, or in person if on campus.

Academic Resources

- [UTEP Library](#): Access a wide range of resources including online, full-text access to thousands of journals and eBooks plus reference service and librarian assistance for enrolled students.
- [University Writing Center \(UWC\)](#): Submit papers here for assistance with writing style and formatting, ask a tutor for help and explore other writing resources.
- [Math Tutoring Center \(MaRCS\)](#): Ask a tutor for help and explore other available math resources.
- [History Tutoring Center \(HTC\)](#): Receive assistance with writing history papers, get help from a tutor and explore other history resources.
- [RefWorks](#): A bibliographic citation tool; check out the RefWorks tutorial and Fact Sheet and Quick-Start Guide.
- Zotero is a free equivalent you can download.