ENVR3187: Environmental Science Field Methods

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Section Information:
Lecture ENVR3187-001

Time and Place of Class Meetings:
Lecture: Mo, Tu, We, Th, Fri 8:00 am -6:00 pm, Geosciences Room 243/246 or in the field.
Note: Delays related to traffic and weather are possible.

Required Textbooks and Other Course Materials: See Blackboard

Description of Course Content: Measurement and analysis of environmental data collected in the field. Special fee covers cost of transportation and equipment.
Prerequisite: CHEM 1442

Student Learning Outcomes: After completion of this class, students will be familiar with environmental health and environmental monitoring
  ➢ Understand environmental processes in environmental soil and aquatic systems
  ➢ Learn to operate state-of-the-art environmental sensors in the field, and analytical systems in the lab
  ➢ Calibrate environmental sensors
  ➢ Determine accuracy, and precession of environmental data
  ➢ Identify the consequences of anthropogenic influences on soil and aquatic systems.
  ➢ Analyze and synthesize results of environmental monitoring of soil and aquatic systems using statistical and dynamic methods.
  ➢ Describe the environmental data analyses in the form of written report and oral presentation
  ➢ Discuss the societal relevance for regional initiatives and political decisions.

This knowledge will enable the students to better understand topics of societal importance, such propagation of toxic substances and other pollutants, their effects on environmental health, and environmental sustainability.
Schedule: May 14 - May 18, 2018

Monday, May 14

- 8:30 am: Orientation and welcome note. Review of policies and safety procedures, and introductions of students and faculty.
- Field projects will start immediately after the introductory session.

Tuesday, May 15 - Friday, May 18.

- 8:00 AM: Arrive at Earth and Environmental Sciences Department, University of Texas at Arlington - Room 104 of the Geoscience Building.

Attendance: At The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required but attendance is a critical indicator in student success. However, while UT Arlington does not require instructors to take attendance in their courses, the U.S. Department of Education requires that the University have a mechanism in place to mark when Federal Student Aid recipients “begin attendance in a course.” UT Arlington instructors will report when students begin attendance in a course as part of the final grading process. Specifically, when assigning a student a grade of F, faculty report the last date a student attended their class based on evidence such as a test, participation in a class project or presentation, or an engagement online via Blackboard. This date is reported to the Department of Education for federal financial aid recipients.

Grading: Total course grade: 50% of Environmental Health and 50% Environmental Lake Project

Grades will not be released over the phone or by email. Grades must be either obtained in person or from the UTA online database. Students are expected to keep track of their performance throughout the semester and seek guidance from available sources (including the instructor) if their performance drops below satisfactory levels; see also “Student Support Services,” below.

Project paper:
A signature research assignment in the two environmental areas is designed to stimulate critical thinking skills, teamwork skills, communication skills, and empirical and quantitative skills. Total report length for each team will be max. 5 pages of text including references. Figures and table shall be attached to the report. The format of the text shall be in letter size, single-spaced, 12 pt times new roman font. Each team will present the project in a 10-minute presentation (including discussion). The project paper has to be written in a scientific style (details are posted on blackboard).

Format of paper submission: Pdf via submission to blackboard
Identical copy of text for the term paper from web or other sources (plagiarized papers or web pages) will result in an F.
Teamwork:
Teamwork is encouraged to stimulate scientific discussion in lecture and lab. Teamwork is allowed in the lab and project with **maximum team size is three students**. In oral presentations, **each** team member needs to present the material. It is the student’s responsibility to form a team and coordinate with other team members.

Required Readings:
Readings listed on the syllabus should be completed before the lecture. The lectures will be designed with the assumption that you have a basic understanding of the assigned material.

Academic Integrity:
Academic dishonesty (such as cheating, plagiarism, taking an exam for another person, etc.) will not be tolerated in any form and will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures.

Blackboard Info: [http://www.uta.edu/blackboard/students/index.html](http://www.uta.edu/blackboard/students/index.html)

Expectations for Out-of-Class Study:
A general rule of thumb is this: for every credit hour earned, a student should spend 3 hours per week working outside of class. Hence, a 3-credit course might have a minimum expectation of 9 hours of reading, study, homework, etc.

Grade Grievances:
Any appeal of a grade in this course must follow the procedures and deadlines for grade-related grievances as published in the current University Catalog: [http://catalog.uta.edu/academicregulations/grades/#undergraduatetext](http://catalog.uta.edu/academicregulations/grades/#undergraduatetext) for graduate courses, see [http://catalog.uta.edu/academicregulations/grades/#graduatetext](http://catalog.uta.edu/academicregulations/grades/#graduatetext).

Drop Policy: Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance**. Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships ([http://www.uta.edu/aaofao/](http://www.uta.edu/aaofao/)).

Disability Accommodations:
UT Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including *The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), The Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act (ADAAA), and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide “reasonable accommodations” to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of disability. Students are responsible for providing the instructor with official notification in the form of a letter certified by the Office for Students with Disabilities.
Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Students experiencing a range of conditions (Physical, Learning, Chronic Health, Mental Health, and Sensory) that may cause diminished academic performance or other barriers to learning may seek services and/or accommodations by contacting:

**The Office for Students with Disabilities, (OSD)** [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability) or calling 817-272-3364. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability).

**Counseling and Psychological Services, (CAPS)** [www.uta.edu/caps](http://www.uta.edu/caps/) or calling 817-272-3671 is also available to all students to help increase their understanding of personal issues, address mental and behavioral health problems and make positive changes in their lives.

**Non-Discrimination Policy:**
The University of Texas at Arlington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities, genetic information, and/or veteran status in its educational programs or activities it operates. For more information, visit [uta.edu/eos](http://uta.edu/eos).

**Title IX Policy:**
The University of Texas at Arlington (“University”) is committed to maintaining a learning and working environment that is free from discrimination based on sex in accordance with Title IX of the Higher Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs or activities; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII), which prohibits sex discrimination in employment; and the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE Act). Sexual misconduct is a form of sex discrimination and will not be tolerated. For information regarding Title IX, visit [www.uta.edu/titleIX](http://www.uta.edu/titleIX) or contact Ms. Jean Hood, Vice President and Title IX Coordinator at (817) 272-7091 or jmhood@uta.edu.

**Academic Integrity:**
Students enrolled all UT Arlington courses are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

> I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington’s tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.

> I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code in their courses by having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System Regents’ Rule 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university’s standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student’s
suspension or expulsion from the University. Additional information is available at https://www.uta.edu/conduct/.

**Lab Safety Training:**
Students registered for this course must complete all required lab safety training prior to entering the lab and undertaking any activities. Once completed, Lab Safety Training is valid for the remainder of the same academic year (i.e., Fall through Summer II) and must be completed anew in subsequent years. There are no exceptions to this University policy. Failure to complete the required training will preclude participation in any lab activities, including those for which a grade is assigned.

**Electronic Communication:**
UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php.

**Campus Carry:**
Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes as prohibited. Under the new law, openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit http://www.uta.edu/news/info/campus-carry/.

**Student Feedback Survey:**
At the end of each term, students enrolled in face-to-face and online classes categorized as “lecture,” “seminar,” or “laboratory” are directed to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student’s feedback via the SFS database is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. Students’ anonymity will be protected to the extent that the law allows. UT Arlington’s effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law and aggregate results are posted online. Data from SFS is also used for faculty and program evaluations. For more information, visit http://www.uta.edu/sfs.

**Final Review Week:**
The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week unless specified in the class syllabus. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.
Emergency Exit Procedures:
Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit by following the exit signs. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist individuals with disabilities. Students should also be encouraged to subscribe to the MavAlert system that will send information in case of an emergency to their cell phones or email accounts. Anyone can subscribe at https://mavalert.uta.edu/ or https://mavalert.uta.edu/register.php

Student Support Services:
UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to resources@uta.edu, or view the information at http://www.uta.edu/universitycollege/resources/index.php.

The IDEAS Center (2nd Floor of Central Library) offers free tutoring to all students with a focus on transfer students, sophomores, veterans and others undergoing a transition to UT Arlington. To schedule an appointment with a peer tutor or mentor email IDEAS@uta.edu or call (817) 272-6593.

The English Writing Center (411LIBR):
The Writing Center Offers free tutoring in 20-, 40-, or 60-minute face-to-face and online sessions to all UTA students on any phase of their UTA coursework. Our hours are 9 am to 8 pm Mon.-Thurs., 9 am-3 pm Fri. and Noon-6 pm Sat. and Sun. Register and make appointments online at http://uta.mywconline.com. Classroom Visits, workshops, and specialized services for graduate students are also available. Please see www.uta.edu/owl for detailed information on all our programs and services.

The Library’s 2nd floor Academic Plaza offers students a central hub of support services, including IDEAS Center, University Advising Services, Transfer UTA and various college/school advising hours. Services are available during the library’s hours of operation. http://library.uta.edu/academic-plaza

Emergency Phone Numbers: In case of an on-campus emergency, call the UT Arlington Police Department at 817-272-3003 (non-campus phone), 2-3003 (campus phone). You may also dial 911. Non-emergency number 817-272-3381
Library Home Page library.uta.edu

Librarian to Contact: Andy Herzog,
Ph.: 817-272-7517, Email: amherzog@uta.edu, Office: Central Library, 516B

Resources for Students

Academic Help
Academic Plaza Consultation Services library.uta.edu/academic-plaza
Ask Us ask.uta.edu/
Library Tutorials library.uta.edu/how-to
Subject and Course Research Guides libguides.uta.edu
Subject Librarians library.uta.edu/subject-librarians

Resources
A to Z List of Library Databases libguides.uta.edu/az.php
Course Reserves pulse.uta.edu/vwebv/enterCourseReserve.do
FabLab fablab.uta.edu/
Special Collections library.uta.edu/special-collections
Study Room Reservations openroom.uta.edu/

Teaching & Learning Services for Faculty
Copyright Consultation library-sc@listserv.uta.edu
Course Research Guide Development, Andy Herzog amherzog@uta.edu or your subject librarian
Data Visualization Instruction, Peace Ossom-Williamson peace@uta.edu
Digital Humanities Instruction, Rafia Mirza rafia@uta.edu
Graduate Student Research Skills Instruction, Andy Herzog amherzog@uta.edu or your subject librarian
Project or Problem-Based Instruction, Gretchen Trkay gtrkay@uta.edu
Undergraduate Research Skills Instruction, Gretchen Trkay gtrkay@uta.edu or your subject librarian.