ERTH - Earth Systems

ERTH 101IN. Earth System Sciences. 4 Credits. (3 Lec, 1 Lab) F,S,Su Examination of basic geologic processes, Earth and planets through geologic time, internal geosystems, and surficial geosystems.

ERTH 201IN. Honors Earth System Science. 4 Credits. (3 Lec, 1 Lab) F PREREQUISITE: Enrollment in the MSU Honors Program. This Honors course explores the complex interactions occurring at all scales between the Earth’s geosphere, biosphere, hydrosphere, atmosphere, and anthroposphere. The goal of the course is to understand the Earth as a ‘system’ of interconnected sources of energy through deep geologic time and space.

ERTH 212RN. Yellowstone: Scientific Lab. 6 Credits. (3 Lec) F The Yellowstone region is an unparalleled laboratory for earth scientists. The volcanic, glacial, climatic, and ecological processes that shaped the region will be introduced through lecture, discussions, and projects. Recitation sections and field trips provide additional hands-on experiences.

ERTH 303. Weather and Climate. 3 Credits. (3 Lec, 1 Lab) F PREREQUISITE: ERTH 101IN. The climates of the continents, and their classification, characteristics and interrelationships with other factors of the physical and human environment.

ERTH 307. Principles of Geomorphology. 4 Credits. (3 Lec, 1 Lab) F PREREQUISITE: ERTH 101IN; familiarity with spreadsheet and word processing is assumed; Junior standing. Framework, process, system, and time as factors which control the generation of land forms. Laboratories involve field trips and map interpretation, and computer modeling.

ERTH 432R. Surface Water Resources. 3 Credits. (2 Lec, 1 Lab) On Demand PREREQUISITE: Junior standing, ERTH 101IN and STAT 216Q or STAT 332 and PHSX 205 or PHSX 220. Physical analysis of the surface portion of the hydrologic cycle: climate, evapotranspiration, precipitation, runoff, flooding, stream channels, sediment production, sediment transport and drainage basins. The surface-water resource in terms of regional supply and human use and intervention. Laboratory fee required.

ERTH 450R. Snow Dynamics and Accumulation. 4 Credits. (1 Lec, 3 Lab) PREREQUISITE: Ability to Ski/Board at intermediate level in back country alpine terrain. Junior or Senior standing; STAT 216Q, PHSX 205 or PHSX 220, ERTH 101IN, ACT 160 (or equivalent), or consent of instructor. Senior capstone for the Snow Science Option. The accumulation, redistribution, and metamorphism of snow as related to humans. Avalanche, recreation, agriculture, silviculture, runoff, and the alpine environment. Field studies are conducted on a regular basis under rigorous field conditions.

ERTH 484. Quaternary Environment. 3 Credits. (3 Sem) F even years PREREQUISITES: ERTH 101IN and Junior standing. This course is an opportunity to learn about the history of the western US over the last 2 million years through a critical analysis of current and historic literature. It will provide an overview of the tools and approaches used to study past environmental change, significant events in the climate history of the region, the geologic record of ice-age environments, including glaciation, pluvial lakes, and vegetation, the evolution of the postglacial landscape, and important biotic and human events during the Holocene. Co-convened with ERTH 584.

ERTH 490R. Undergraduate Research. 1-6 Credits. (1 Ind; 12 cr max) F,S,Su PREREQUISITE: Consent of instructor. Directed undergraduate research which may culminate in a research paper, journal article, or undergraduate thesis Course will address responsible conduct of research. May be repeated.

ERTH 491. Special Topics. 1-4 Credits.

ERTH 494. Seminar. 1 Credit. (1 Sem; 4 cr max) F,S,Su PREREQUISITE: Junior standing and as determined for each offering, Topics at the upper division level not covered in regular courses. Students participate in preparing and presenting discussion material. Co-convened with ERTH 594.

ERTH 498. Internship. 2-12 Credits. (2-12 Ind; 12 cr max) F,S,Su PREREQUISITE: Junior standing, consent of instructor, and approval of department head. An individualized assignment arranged with an agency, business or other organization to provide guided experience in the field.

ERTH 499. Senior Thesis/Capstone. 3 Credits. (3 Cr) F,S Su PREREQUISITE: Senior standing; minimum 3.0 cum gpa; faculty recommendation. Senior thesis provides an opportunity to conduct research under the supervision of a faculty member leading to the production of a research paper (‘mini-thesis’) and an oral presentation to the department or at a professional meeting. Excellent preparation for graduate school and professional work.

ERTH 502. Fluvial Geomorphology. 3 Credits. (3 Lec) F,S,Su PREREQUISITE: ERTH 307 or other introduction to fluvial systems or instructor permission. This course provides a foundation for understanding fluvial processes, interpreting fluvial forms, and teaches basic tools for use in watershed and river assessment. Course will cover drainage networks, channel form, and apply these concepts to a river assessment problem.

ERTH 505; Geomicrobiology. 3 Credits. (3 Sem) S PREREQUISITE: Microbiology I. Additional hands-on experiences. The course examines geochemical and microbial interactions that control earth surface processes and ultimately major biogeochemical cycles. The course focuses on how integrated approaches using geochemistry, stable isotope geochemistry, and microbial techniques are applied to research problems.

ERTH 512. Mt. & Plns Riparian Proc. 2 Credits. (2 Lec, 2 Sem) F,S,Su PREREQUISITE: ERTH 101IN, secondary teaching certification plus two years teaching experience; recommended ERTH 516 and access to the world wide web. Riparian hydrologic and geomorphic processes with examples drawn from the mountains and plains. Ground-water recharge and discharge; Horton overland flow; partial variable runoff areas; riparian best management practices; sapping, types of springs; sediment from slopes. K-12 riparian science education.

ERTH 516. North Rocky Mnt Geology. 2 Credits. (1 Lec. 1 Lab. 1 Rec) S PREREQUISITE: ERTH 101IN, early history and evolution (GEO 211); graduate standing; secondary teaching certification plus two years teaching experience; a computer with modem. Geologic history of Northern Rocky Mountains, and landscapes from Archean to present. Structural, tectonic, and surficial elements. Field examination of geologic evidence for history of the Gallatin Range, Bridger Range, and Yellowstone National Park. Exploration and development of teaching methods and resources for the K-12 classroom.

ERTH 519. Watershed Hydrology for Teachers. 3 Credits. (1 Lec. 1 Lab. 1 Rec) S PREREQUISITE: ERTH 101IN, senior standing. Students participate in learning about water quality and water quantity. Students in the course will learn about relationships among watershed hydrology, including water quality, water quantity, water inputs and outputs, effects of modification of watersheds and more.

ERTH 520. Fundamentals of Oceanography for Teachers. 3 Credits. (3 Lec) F,S,Su PREREQUISITES: Graduate standing; science educator; interest in science Geology of the Moon is an on-line course designed for educators interested in learning about the Moon and its history and relationship to Earth. We will explore theories for its formation and the geologic processes that have helped it to evolve including, differentiation, volcanism, impact cratering, space weathering and former, current and upcoming missions to the Moon. Students will review presentations and assigned readings and interactively participate through a combination of on-line discussions, classroom exercises and dynamic activities. Students will keep a course journal that will help them develop future moon-related curricula for their future use.

ERTH 522. Teaching Middle School Earth System Science. 3 Credits. (3 Lec) F,S,Su PREREQUISITES: Participants must have a Bachelor’s degree, and three years teaching experience at the middle school level to include having taught science unit(s) on Earth Sciences, Earth System Sciences, or landforms. This course for middle school teachers uses Problem Based Learning (PBL) to explore the processes and interactions between the geosphere, hydrosphere, atmosphere, and biosphere. Teachers will examine processes within and among the four major Earth systems and increase pedagogical skills through modeling PBL, teacher networking, and sharing of ideas and resources.

ERTH 523. Weather for Elementary Teachers. 1 Credit. (1 Lec) F PREREQUISITES: Students must be elementary school teachers, or must have completed a teacher education program and have graduate standing. The course is designed to increase content knowledge and understanding of weather processes. It employs elementary level teachers a foundation for understanding function to facilitate the teaching and learning of weather concepts (meteorology). Weekly discussions encourage reflection on learning and teaching and help solidify weather concepts. Teachers will maintain a daily journal of manual weather observations for one week and compare them to automated observations from corresponding weather stations. Assignments and quizzes are included to help with knowledge acquisition.
ERTH 524. K-14 Earth System Science. 2 Credits. (2 Lec.) F
PREREQUISITES: The course is designed primarily for Certified Teachers at the K-14 levels with an interest in integrating mathematics and science education with computer technology and Internet resources. Registrants must be Certified Teachers, or permission of the instructor is required. Participants will learn to find the Internet's abundant digital Earth Systems Science (ESS) resources and use these resources to create Earth Science lessons that integrate the use of Earth Science specific skills, math, and content. Participants will learn to adapt online resources to their own instructional environments at the K-14 levels.

ERTH 525. Landforms for Elementary Teachers. 1 Credit. (1 Lec.) F
PREREQUISITES: graduate standing; educator In this 8 week online course we will investigate landform science. We will look at a variety of landscapes and how they came to look like they do. We will model landforms and encourage sharing and discussions of teaching ideas in our course. This course intends to: 1) strengthen and deepen the elementary teacher's understanding of basic concepts of landforms and landform analysis; 2) increase the K-6 teacher's level of landform content knowledge and science principles; and 3) increase the K-6 teacher's pedagogical skills in teaching science in general and landform science in particular.

ERTH 527. Weather & Climate for Teachers. 3 Credits. (3 Lec.) S
PREREQUISITES: Bachelor's degree, two years of teaching experience, and an introduction to physical geography course or equivalent. This graduate course uses weekly readings, discussions, and hands on activities to build a physical understanding of weather and climate, and to equip our teachers and educators with the tools to better prepare and motivate the next generation of Earth scientists.

ERTH 528. Climate Change for Teachers. 3 Credits. (3 Lec.) Su
PREREQUISITE: Graduate standing. ERTH 527: Weather and Climate for Teachers. The science of climate change is a complex subject that balances the physical record and scientific fact with politics, policy, and ethics. This course, specially designed for practicing science teachers at the upper middle to high school level, explores the science of climate change.

ERTH 551. Snow Science Seminar. 3 Credits. (2 Lec, 1 Lab) F alternate years, to be offered even years.
PREREQUISITE: ERTH 307 or equivalent. Course examines the importance of concepts in their area of scientific specialization. The science of climate change is a complex subject that balances the physical record and scientific fact with politics, policy, and ethics. This course, specially designed for practicing science teachers at the upper middle to high school level, explores the science of climate change.

ERTH 552. Advanced Geomorphology. 3 Credits. (3 Lec) S
PREREQUISITE: ERTH 307. Corequisite: M 172Q or equivalent. This course will provide students an advanced view into active, ongoing research in geomorphology. The course is designed for advanced undergraduate students and graduate students who have taken a previous course in geomorphology. Emphasis will be placed on the tools available to analyze and interpret geomorphic processes, active research in the field, and the interactions of geomorphic processes with other fields of geology, geology, hydrology, chemistry, etc.

ERTH 582. Quaternary Paleoecology. 3 Credits. (3 Sem) F alternate years, to be offered even years.
PREREQUISITE: ERT 101IN or BIOL 170IN or equivalent. Course examines the history and development of modern biomes and the causes and consequences of long-term ecological change.

ERTH 583. Topics in Paleoecology. 3 Credits. (3 Sem) F alternate years, to be offered odd years.
PREREQUISITE: ERT 101IN or BIOL 170IN or equivalent. Course examines the history and development of modern biomes and the causes and consequences of long-term ecological change.

ERTH 584. Quaternary Envir of Western US. 3 Credits. (3 Sem) F, alternate years, to be offered even years.
PREREQUISITE: ERTH 101 or BIOL 170 or equivalent. This graduate course examines current research and recent developments in Quaternary paleoecology in the western U.S. The seminar will be centered around weekly discussions of the primary literature, hands-on experience with international data bases, and class paper and presentation. Co-convened with ERTH 484.

ERTH 585. Advances in Geobiology. 1 Credit. (1 Sem) F, to be offered even years. Discussion of recent developments in paleontology, paleoecology, biogeochemistry, and biogeochemistry based on current literature and presentation of faculty and student works in progress.