

EAS 2600 Laboratory Syllabus

Earth Processes Laboratory (1 credit), sections T3, T4, W1, W2, W3, W4, R2, R3, R4, and F1

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Lab Coordinator Information

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General Course Information

Description

EAS 2600 is an introduction to Earth materials and processes. The 1-credit Lab course focuses on the foundational skills of geology.

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this Lab course, you should be able to:

- Identify minerals and rocks based on their physical characteristics
- Extract information from topographic and geologic maps
- Identify landforms on maps, diagrams, and photographs and explain the Earth processes that created them

Required Course Materials

This is an open educational resources (OER) course. Extensive reference materials, including readings and tutorials will be provided to you through Canvas.

You need a functioning laptop that meets Georgia Tech's [minimum hardware requirements](#) to class to access the reference materials on Canvas. Georgia Tech has negotiated with Lenovo to offer a [discounted laptop](#) that fulfills the student computer ownership minimum hardware requirements. As a last resort, the Office of Information Technology has a *limited* number of [laptops available for short-term loan](#) for those in need.

You will maintain a single Lab Notebook throughout the semester. This Lab Notebook can be a composition or spiral bound notebook of any length. You will use this resource in every Lab meeting and we suggest that you also use it on the Lab Practicals.

Grading Policy:

Your grade in this course will be based on your performance on three Lab Practicals:

- Lab Practical 1: Minerals – 33% Lab grade
- Lab Practical 2: Rocks – 33% of Lab grade
- Lab Practical 3: Miscellaneous Topics – 34% of Lab grade

Lab grades are 25% of your overall EAS 2600 course grade. See the separate Lecture Syllabus for further information about how the final course grade is calculated.

Description of Graded Components*Lab Practical 1: Minerals (33% of Lab Grade)*

You will see a set of mineral specimens and be asked to identify them. You will be provided with standard implements to perform this task: copper penny or pipe, iron nail, glass plate, unglazed porcelain tiles, dropper with dilute hydrochloric acid, and magnet. Please do not lick the specimens, you will be able to ask your TA if a specimen tastes salty. If you cannot see color, you can ask your TA what color the specimen is.

Lab Practical 2: Rocks (33% of Lab Grade)

You will see a set of rock specimens and be asked to identify them. You will not be told if the specimen is igneous, sedimentary, or metamorphic. You will be provided with standard implements to perform this task: copper penny or pipe, iron nail, glass plate, unglazed porcelain tiles, dropper with dilute hydrochloric acid, and magnet. Please do not lick the specimens, you will be able to ask your TA if a specimen tastes salty. If you cannot see color, you can ask your TA what color the specimen is.

Lab Practical 3: Miscellaneous Topics (34% of Lab Grade)

This exam will include short-answer questions that ask you to interpret maps, diagrams, and photographs.

General Information about Lab Practicals

You are encouraged to use your Lab Notebook on each Lab Practical. More information about this resource is available in the Lab Notebook section of this syllabus. No additional resources are allowed on the Lab Practicals: you may not share notebooks with other students, you may not talk to other students, and you may not access the Internet during the Lab Practical. If you forget to bring your Lab Notebook to the exam, you will not be permitted to reschedule your Lab Practical. No breaks are allowed during the Lab Practicals: if you must leave the exam room you will submit your exam before doing so.

Course Policies

Attendance and/or Participation

This is an in-person class and your presence in the Lab is essential for your success. Your contributions in each are meaningful for your learning and that of your classmates.

Arrive on time to receive a brief overview of the materials available to you during the Lab meeting. Receiving this overview will help you to understand the Lab flow and context for activities.

Attendance will be taken during each Lab meeting using the Attendance tool in Canvas; no grade is associated with your attendance. Attending Lab each week allows you access to the specimens and TAs to guide you through your learning.

Lab Notebook

You will maintain a Lab Notebook throughout the semester. This resource must be a bound notebook; it cannot be a 3-ring binder, stack of unsecured papers, or published text. There is no length minimum or maximum, but it must be a standard notebook available for public purchase (i.e. it cannot be a custom 2,000-page “notebook”).

You are *strongly* encouraged to use your Lab Notebook on the Lab Practicals! *Your name* must be written on the front of the notebook and on *every page* of the notebook. (Students cannot share notebooks.)

To effectively organize your notebook, we suggest the following:

- **Before Lab** review the relevant resources on Canvas. Write important information about the topics to be covered into your notebook. This serves as a reference during the Lab activities and Lab Practicals.
- **During Lab** take notes into your notebook. During Lab you will be presented with specimens and guidance to enhance your learning. There is no substitute for these hands-on activities: here we will show you *how to* interpret the specimens/maps. While tutorials are available on Canvas, there is no substitute for handling the specimens yourself. (Think about the difference between watching someone else ride a bike and actually riding a bike yourself!)
- **After Lab** add any additional reference material to your notebook. You may tape/paste/staple in pictures that you took during lab or additional resources printed from the Internet.
- **During Lab Practicals** use *your* notebook. Before beginning the exam, your TAs will verify two key requirements:

- Your name is written on the front of the notebook *and* every non-blank page.
- There are no loose/unsecured sheets tucked into your notebook: all photographs or printed materials are glued, taped, or stapled in.

Academic Integrity

Georgia Tech aims to cultivate a community based on trust, academic integrity, and honor. Students are expected to act according to the highest ethical standards. Review [Georgia Tech's Honor Code](#) and the student [Code of Conduct](#).

Any student suspected of cheating, plagiarism, or unauthorized use of artificial intelligence will be reported to the Office of Student Integrity, who will investigate the incident. The penalty for the first offense is a zero on the assignment or exam. This zero cannot be one of the dropped grades. The penalty for subsequent offenses is at Dr. Boop's discretion.

Core IMPACTS

[Core IMPACTS](#) is the University System of Georgia's General Education curriculum. This course meets the requirements for the [Technology, Mathematics & Sciences IMPACTS area](#): Students will use the scientific method and laboratory procedures or mathematical and computational methods to analyze data, solve problems, and explain natural phenomena. Course content, activities, and exercises in this course should help students develop the following career-ready competencies: inquiry and analysis, problem-solving, and teamwork.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, [contact the Office of Disability Services](#) (404-894-2563) as soon as possible to make an appointment to discuss your special needs and to obtain an accommodations letter. Email your accommodations via ODS. Dr. Boop will confirm receipt via email and ask any necessary follow-up questions.

Student-Faculty Expectations Agreement

At Georgia Tech, we believe that it is important to strive for an atmosphere of mutual respect, acknowledgement, and responsibility between faculty members and the student body. [The Student-Faculty Expectations](#) articulate some basic expectations that you can have of us and that we have of you. In the end, simple respect for knowledge, hard work, and cordial interactions will help build the environment we seek. Therefore, we encourage you to remain committed to the ideals of Georgia Tech while in this class.

Extra Credit Opportunities

Extra credit may be offered in small amounts throughout the semester. This is at the discretion of the Dr. Boop and TAs.

There will not be an opportunity to significantly bring up your grade at the end of the semester through additional assignments beyond the information provided in the Grading Policy and Description of Graded Components section of this syllabus.

Collaboration and Group Work

Each Lab meeting is an opportunity to work collaboratively with your classmates. You will take Lab Practicals individually. No talking or sharing of resources is allowed on the Lab Practicals.

Missed Labs and Re-Scheduled/Missed Lab Practicals

If you miss Lab for any reason, we *strongly encourage* that you cover missed content during TA office hours held in the Lab.

Missed Lab Practicals can only be made up if your absence is excused. Excused absences must be substantiated with documentation submitted to the appropriate campus entity:

- [Office of Student Life](#): submit documentation for your absence related to documented illness, hospitalizations, accidents, death in the family, family emergencies, and lengthy illnesses.
- [Registrar's Office](#): submit documentation for your absence related to Georgia Tech field trips, conferences, and athletic events at least two weeks before your requested absence. This form can also be used for religious absences in the first two weeks of the semester.

In accordance with Georgia Tech's [Attendance](#) policy, "students who are absent because of participation in a particular religious observance will be permitted to make up the work missed during their absence with no late penalty, provided the student informs the course instructor of the upcoming absence, in writing, within the first two weeks of class."

To make up a missed Lab Practical, upload your excused absence verification paperwork in the "Lab Practical Makeup Request – Excused Absences ONLY" Module on Canvas:

- After obtaining an approval notice from the Office of Student Life or the Registrar's Office, submit that approval notice by the end of the class meeting immediately following receipt of your approval notice.
- If you have a religious observance, submit your absence request within the first two weeks of the semester.

Inclement Weather and Digital Learning Days

If campus is closed due to an emergency, Dr. Boop will communicate whether class is canceled or if we will shift to a Digital Learning Day through a Canvas Announcement. Configure your Canvas account to ensure that you receive notifications.

Food and Drink in the Laboratory

For safety reasons, food and drink are *never permitted* in the Lab room. You may secure these items *in your backpack* or in the bin outside of the Lab room.

Except during Lab Practicals, you may leave the Lab room to take care of their needs. Wash your hands before tending to your personal needs. Time breaks for when you are not actively working with other students.

Laboratory Safety

Each student will complete the “Policies and Safety Rules for the EAS 2600 Lab” document on Canvas within the first two weeks of class. This document outlines policies to keep you and your classmates safe in the Lab.

Campus Resources for Students

Undergraduate Student Academic Success Resources:

A list of resources for undergraduate students’ academic success and information about advising can be found at [Success at Tech](#).

Academic Success and Advising (a unit in the Office of Undergraduate Education & Student Success) provides free support for your courses. Students can attend scheduled supplemental review (PLUS) sessions, stop by Drop-In Tutoring, or schedule a one-on-one appointment through Knack. To explore what options work best for you, please visit us online at success.gatech.edu/tutoring, email us at tutoring@gatech.edu, or come see us at Clough Undergraduate Learning Commons, Suite 283.

Student Well-Being:

At Georgia Tech, we are concerned about your overall physical, social, and mental well-being. A [comprehensive list](#) of wellness related resources has been compiled and maintained by the Office of the Vice President for Student Engagement and Well-Being.

How to Succeed in EAS 2600

Below is a list of actions we suggest to help you succeed in this course:

- **Attend class regularly.** There are robust materials available for you to review on Canvas, but these are not a substitute for engaging with the specimens in Lab. Arrive early to settle in and receive the Lab overview presentation.
- **Engage.** Through the development and maintenance of your Lab Notebook, you are beginning to study for the Lab Practical on day one. Each entry you make to it will help you on the upcoming Lab Practical.
- **Utilize office hours.** Your instructors and TAs hold office hours to answer your questions. We love answering your questions in office hours!
- **Connect with the material.** The best educational hack is to figure out how the material you're covering in class pertains to your life. Once you determine that it's useful information, you're interested, and it becomes easier to incorporate the information.
- **Communicate.** Ask questions. If you feel yourself slipping behind or struggling, reach out. We're here to help. If you are unsure about a course or institute policy, ask for clarification. Read the announcements on Canvas and all instructions.