

Course Description

This seminar course is designed to engage students in the latest advancements and research in the fields of earth and atmospheric sciences. Each week, the School of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences will host a seminar featuring renowned experts from both academia and industry, who will present groundbreaking research. Students enrolled in this course are required to attend these seminars and actively participate by engaging with the speakers and their topics.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the course, students will:

- Gain exposure to a diverse range of research topics in earth and atmospheric sciences.
- Develop a comprehensive understanding of the interdisciplinary nature of these fields.
- Enhance their critical thinking skills by engaging with contemporary research and discussing ideas with experts.
- Refine their ability to summarize and reflect on scientific presentations.

Course Requirements

- **Seminar Attendance (80%):**
Students must attend at least twelve out of the fifteen scheduled seminars during the **FALL 2026** semester. Attendance will be recorded at the beginning of each seminar. Failure to meet the attendance requirement will result in a deduction from the final grade.
- **Engagement in Q&A and Asking Critical Questions (20%):**
Students are expected to actively engage in the Q&A sessions of the seminars by asking thoughtful and critical questions. Each question asked during a seminar is worth 10% of your total grade, with up to two questions being counted per seminar (making up 20% of your total grade). This engagement is intended to help students interact with the speaker, deepen their understanding of the subject matter, and enhance their communication skills. You can ask questions after the seminar as well, either by going to the speaker after the seminar or by emailing them. You can forward your questions and the speaker's reply to Dr Ali Sarhadi or Dr Joyce Sim for it to count. Note that speakers might take some time to reply by email after the seminar and if they do not reply to you in a week, reach out to them again. If you

asked a question and would like to make sure they are counted for your grade, please reach out to Dr Ali Sarhadi or Dr Joyce Sim.

Grading

This course will be graded on a Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) basis:

- **Satisfactory (S):** Achieving a total grade of 60% or higher.
- **Unsatisfactory (U):** Achieving a total grade below 60%.

Grading Breakdown

- **Attendance: 80%**
- **Q&A Participation: 20%**

Seminar Schedule

The seminar schedule will be updated regularly and communicated via email and the course webpage. Students are responsible for checking the schedule and attending accordingly. If any seminars are missed due to valid reasons, makeup work or alternate assignments may be required.

Course Evaluation

Students are required to complete course evaluations at the end of the semester via the Georgia Tech platform.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is mandatory for the seminars, with a minimum requirement of 80% attendance. Exceptions will be made for legitimate reasons (medical or personal emergencies) with proper documentation.

Diversity, Inclusivity, and Student-Faculty Expectations

As a member of the Georgia Tech community, we are committed to creating a learning environment in which all of the students feel safe and included. We welcome and encourage your constructive feedback and/or suggestions for improvement. All members of this class are expected to contribute to a respectful, welcoming and inclusive environment for every other member of the class. Please see <http://catalog.gatech.edu/rules/22/> for some basic expectations that we should have of each other.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, contact the Office of Disability Services at 404-894-2563 or online

at <http://disabilityservices.gatech.edu>, as soon as possible, to make an appointment to discuss your needs and to obtain an accommodation letter. Please also schedule a meeting with either of the instructors to discuss your learning needs.