

Earth Sciences 1083A (Life on Planet Earth) Course Outline

PLEASE NOTE: This course is designed for **in-person classroom learning**, with a compulsory component of hands-on exercises with rocks and fossils. You are advised to consider other course options if you plan to learn remotely.

1. Course Information

Earth Sciences 1083A: Life on Planet Earth

Academic Term: Fall (September 1 – December 31, 2026)

Location and time:

Lectures: In-Person (see details on secure course site)

Tutorials: In-Person (see details on secure course site)

Prerequisites: None

Antirequisites: Earth Sciences 2265A/B, Earth Sciences 2266F/G

Restrictions: Cannot be taken by students registered in yr. 3 or 4 of an Earth Sciences module.

NOTE: Unless students have either the prerequisites for this course or written special permission from the Department of Earth Sciences (Undergraduate Chair) to enroll in it, they may be removed and withdrawn from this course in accordance with university policy. This may be done after the add/drop deadline of the academic term, and the course will be marked as withdrawn (WDN) on their academic record. This decision may not be appealed.

2. Instructor Information

Instructors	Email	Office	Phone	Office Hours
Dr. Jisuo Jin (Course Instructor)				by appointment.
Teaching Assistants	Email			
Sorcha Angeline Rountree				by appointment.
Ana Lorenzetti-Fortes				by appointment.

- Please use your Western (@uwo.ca) email addresses when contacting their instructors.
- Office hours can be arranged either in-person or by Zoom.

3. Course Syllabus, Schedule, Delivery Mode

Key dates:

Classes begin: Wednesday, September 9, 2026
NDTR: Wednesday, September 30, 2026
Thanksgiving: Monday, October 12, 2026
Fall Reading Week: October 10–18, 2026
Classes end: December 9, 2026
Exam period: December 11–22, 2026

Course Description: The fundamental objectives of this course are to provide such students a basic understanding of:

- 1) The history of life on Earth in the context of geological time and Earth processes.
- 2) Principles of biological evolution.
- 3) Evolutionary trends in major animal groups.

Course-Level Learning Outcomes and Expectations: Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- 1) Identify and classify common minerals, rocks, and other Earth materials and describe the significance of these materials in context of: a) their distribution and abundance in the Earth system, b) their relevance to Earth processes through time; and c) their roles in fossil preservation in the geologic record.
- 2) Describe the history of evolutionary thought and identify major scientists who played major roles in the development of evolutionary and geologic theories.
- 3) Identify (and name) major groups of organisms that existed through Earth's history (in context of the geologic time scale).
- 4) Describe the processes of evolution and extinction as recorded the fossil record.

Background Required: This course is intended for (but not limited to) students registered in faculties other than Science.

Note on the nature of scientific material to be covered in this course: This is a *Science* course and will focus on scientific subject matter. Students enrolled in this course will be required to grasp a certain amount of scientific concepts and relevant technical terms, as well as to master problem-solving skills in areas of Earth Sciences and Biology relevant to this course). **However, material to be tested will be qualitative (not quantitative)** and will therefore not involve memorization of numbers or scientific formulas.

Delivery Format:

Lectures: In-Person (see details on secure course site)

The PPT lecture file will be posted online ahead each classroom lecture.

Tutorials: In-Person (*Refer to your personal **section** to which you are assigned*):

Tutorial Sec. 002 (see details on secure course site)

Tutorial Sec. 003 (see details on secure course site)

Note: if you need to change the tutorial section you are officially registered in (according to the Office of the Registrar), you **must** ask your instructor for approval. If approved, you must then confirm with both your

instructor and TAs of both sections of your intent to attend a different section.

Weekly Quizzes: Asynchronous Online (via Brightspace – Assessments); open at 8:00AM on Friday, based mainly on lecture material covered in the previous two weeks). Each quiz will be due on the following Wednesday at 11:30PM.

Course Schedule for Earth Sciences 1083A

Week (starting date)	Lectures	Quizzes (open online)	Tutorials Sec. 002: Mon; Sec. 003: Fri
Week 1 (Sep. 9)	Lecture 1 and 2	No Quiz	No Tutorials
Week 2 (Sep. 14)	Lecture 3-5	Quiz 1 opens Fri.	No Tutorials
Week 3 (Sep. 21)	Lectures 6-8	Quiz 1 due Fri.; Quiz 2 opens Fri.	Tutorial 1
Week 4 (Sep. 28)	Lectures 9-10 (NDTR Wednesday)	Quiz 2 due Fri; Quiz 3 opens Fri.	Attend Tutorial 2 Submit Tutorial Assign. 1
Week 5 Oct. 5	Lectures 11-13	Quiz 3 due Fri. Quiz 4 opens Fri.	Attend Tutorial 3; Submit Tutorial Assign. 2.
Week 6 (Oct 12)	<i>Thanksgiving & Reading Week</i>		No Tutorial
Week 7 (Oct 19)	Lectures 14-16	Quiz 4 due Fri. Quiz 5 opens Fri.	Attend Tutorial 4; Submit Tutorial Assign. 3
Week 8 (Oct. 26)	Lectures 17-19	Quiz 5 due Fri. Quiz 6 opens Fri.	Attend Tutorial 5; Submit Tutorial Assign. 4
Week 9 (Nov. 2)	Lectures 20-22	Quiz 6 due Fri.; Quiz 7 opens Fri.	Attend Tutorial 6; Submit Tutorial; Assign. 5
Week 11 (Nov. 9)	Lectures 23-25	Quiz 7 due Fri.; Quiz 8 opens Fri.	Attend Tutorial 7 (Optional); Submit Tutorial Assignment 6
Week 12 (Nov. 16)	Lectures 26-28	Quiz 8 due Fri.; Quiz 9 opens Fri.	Submit Tutorial Assignment 7 (end of Tutorials)
Week 13 (Nov. 23)	Lectures 29-31	Quiz 9 due Fri. ; Quiz 10 opens Fri.	
Week 14 (Nov. 30)	Lectures 32 Optional quizzes (in class)	Quiz 10 due Fri.	

4. Course Materials

A. Required e-textbook (student to purchase): This is a digital collection of chapters, entitled *Life on Planet Earth, ES1083A*. Student link for purchasing the e-Text:

<https://console.pearson.com/enrollment/crnvb9>

B. PowerPoint lectures (free): PowerPoint lecture files are posted in the Brightspace course site. Students are responsible for checking the course site regularly for lecture updates.

5. Methods of Evaluation

Your final course grade will be calculated as follows:

Weekly online (via Brightspace) quizzes (best 10 marks):	15%
Tutorial Assignments:	20%
Midterm Exam (see details on secure course site)	25%
Final exam (in person, scheduled by Registrar):	40%

Information about Missed Coursework

Students must familiarize themselves with the *University Policy on Academic Consideration – Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs*, posted on the Academic Calendar:
https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf,

This policy does not apply to requests for Academic Consideration submitted for **attempted or completed work**, whether online or in person. The policy also does not apply to students experiencing longer-term impacts on their academic responsibilities. These students should consult [Accessible Education](#).

For procedures on how to submit Academic Consideration requests, please see the information posted on the Office of the Registrar's webpage: https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/academic_considerations/
All requests for Academic Consideration must be made within 48 hours after the assessment date or submission deadline.

Required components of the course:

Tutorials: A student must complete a minimum of 5 of the 7 tutorials in order to get a final grade for the course. Marks for missed tutorials will be deducted from course grade accordingly.

Quizzes: A student must complete a minimum of 8 of the 10 quizzes in order to get a final grade for the course. Marks for missed quizzes will be deducted from course grade accordingly.

Deadlines: The 48-Hour No-Late-Penalty Period

For each tutorial, students will submit the assignment within 5 days after the tutorial, although it will be most convenient to submit the take-home assignment by the beginning of tutorial session in the following week, taking advantage of the university policy of 48-hour grace period.

For each online quiz (released on Friday, 8:00AM), the deadline for completing the quiz is 11:30PM on the following Wednesday, with a 2-day no-penalty grace period until 8:00AM (Friday).

Please note the new academic policy: After the 48-hour period, no further submissions will be accepted, and students do not need to request Academic Consideration for a missed deadline; their grade

for this component will be calculated as described above.

Special Examination

Per university policy, Academic Consideration requests with supporting documentation are required for the final examinations scheduled during official examination periods by the Registrar's Office.

If the student has been approved by the Academic Advising Office to write a Special Examination (SPC) and the final exam is their only outstanding course component, an SPC will be assigned to them and scheduled by the instructor per university policy.

If the student misses their SPC exam and is approved for Academic Consideration, they will be withdrawn from the course without academic penalty. If they experienced extenuating circumstances such as prolonged illness, they may appeal to the Associate Dean (Academic), on a case-by-case basis, for the opportunity to write the final exam the next time the course is offered. An outstanding SPC will reduce their course load for the term in which the exam is deferred, as outlined in the [Definitions of Types of Examinations](#) policy.

If the student misses their SPC exam and Academic Consideration is not approved, or was not requested, they will receive a grade of zero on the exam.

6. Additional Statements

6.1 Religious Accommodation

When a recognized religious holiday either requires a student to be absent from the University, or requires or prohibits an activity that makes it impossible for them to complete an academic requirement scheduled that day, they are entitled to accommodation. No student will be penalized for an absence for religious reasons, and an alternative means of satisfying the requirement will be arranged. This accommodation is provided in accordance with the University's policy on Accommodation for Religious Holidays:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_religious.pdf

The student should submit their requests through the Student Absence Portal (SAP), identifying the conflict and the specific course component(s) affected (e.g., test, midterm, exam).

Midterms and Tests: If a religious observance conflicts with a midterm test, they must submit their request no later than **one week** before the test. Their instructor will arrange an early sitting of the test. As set out above, no makeup test is offered for any other reason; this early sitting is available specifically for this accommodation.

Final Examinations: If a religious observance conflicts with the final exam, the student must submit their request no later than **two weeks** before the exam. Their instructor will arrange a Special Examination to take place no later than one month after the end of the examination period.

Students are responsible for finding out what was covered in any class they miss due to a religious observance, and for taking the appropriate steps to keep up with the course.

If a suitable arrangement cannot be reached between a student and their instructor, they should consult the Undergraduate Chair of the department offering the course, and if necessary, the Associate Dean (Academic) of the Faculty of Science.

For a list of recognized religious observances, please visit the calendars posted on the Equity, Diversity & Inclusion website - <https://www.edi.uwo.ca> (About Us – Resources – Additional Resources – Calendars).

6.2 Academic Accommodation Policies

Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Accessible Education, which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities can be found at:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic_Accommodation_disabilities.pdf.

6.3 General Academic Policies

The website for Registrar Services is <https://www.registrar.uwo.ca/>.

Use of @uwo.ca email: In accordance with policy, https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/policies_procedures/section1/mapp113.pdf, the centrally administered e-mail account provided to students will be considered the individual's official university email address. It is the responsibility of the account holder to ensure that emails received from the University at their official university address are attended to in a timely manner.

Requests for Relief (formally known as “appeals”)

Policy on Request for Relief from Academic Decision:

https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/requests_for_relief_from_academic_decisions.pdf

Procedures on Request for Relief from Academic Decision (Undergraduate):

https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/undergrad_requests_for_relief_procedure.pdf

6.4 Scholastic Offences

Policy on Scholastic Offences:

https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_offences.pdf

Procedures on Scholastic Offences (Undergraduate):

https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/undergrad_scholastic_offence_procedure.pdf

Use of Electronic Devices During Assessments

In courses offered by the Faculty of Science, the **possession** of unauthorized electronic devices during any in-person assessment (such as tests, midterms, and final examinations) is strictly prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to: mobile phones, smart watches, smart glasses, hidden cameras and wireless earbuds.

Unless explicitly stated otherwise in advance by the instructor, the presence of any such device at a student's desk, on their person, or within reach during an assessment will be treated as a scholastic offence, **even if the device is not in use**.

Effective September 2026, the typical penalty for this offence is a failing grade in the course AND a 12-month prohibition on retaking the course.

Only devices expressly permitted by the instructor (e.g., non-programmable calculators) may be brought into the assessment room. It is their responsibility to review and comply with these expectations.

Use of Generative AI Tools

Unless otherwise stated, the use of generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Microsoft Copilot, Google Gemini, or similar platforms) is **not permitted** in the completion of any course assessments, including but not limited to: assignments, lab reports, presentations, tests, and final examinations.

Using such tools for content generation, code writing, problem solving, translation, or summarization—when not explicitly allowed—will be treated as a **scholastic offence**.

If the use of generative AI is permitted for a particular assessment, the conditions of use will be specified by the instructor in advance. If no such permission is granted, students must assume that use is prohibited. It is the student's responsibility to seek clarification before using any AI tools in academic work.

6.5 Support Services

Academic Advising. Please visit the Science & Basic Medical Sciences Academic Advising webpage for information on adding/dropping courses, academic considerations for absences, requests for relief, exam conflicts, and many other academic-related matters: <https://www.uwo.ca/sci/advising/>.

Mental Health Support. Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (<https://uwo.ca/health/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Gender-Based and Sexual Violence. Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence (GBSV) and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If a student has experienced GBSV (either recently or in the past), they can find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts, at:

https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html.

To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

Accessibility for Coursework. A student may contact the course instructor if they require lecture or printed material in an alternate format or if any other arrangements can make this course more accessible to them. If they have any questions regarding accommodations, they may also contact Accessible Education at http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html

Learning Development and Success. Learning-skills counsellors at Learning Development and Success (<https://learning.uwo.ca>) are ready to help students improve their learning skills. The facility offers strategies for improving time management, multiple-choice exam preparation/writing, textbook reading, and more. Individual support is offered throughout the Fall/Winter terms in the drop-in Learning Help Centre, and year-round through individual counselling.

Student Councils.

Student-run support services are offered by the University Students' Council (<https://westernusc.ca>) and the Science Students' Council (<https://www.westernssc.ca>).