

**ESCI 2210 Field Methods in the Earth and Environmental Sciences**  
Fall 2020

**Meetings:** Online (CANVAS/Zoom) on Wednesdays, 2:30 – 5:15 pm

**Credits:** 3

**Instructor:** Dr. Sara Gagné

**Office:** Denny 117A

**E-mail:** sgagne@uncc.edu

**Office hours:** As needed, request an appointment by email.

*Please use your UNCC e-mail address to contact me. I will not respond to e-mails from other addresses.*

**Teaching assistant:** Hannah Partridge

**Office:** Denny 114

**E-mail:** hpartrid@uncc.edu

**Office hours:** Tuesdays, 2:30 – 3:30 pm (virtual) or by appointment

**Materials**

- Bring a pencil, a pen, and a notebook to every class

**Introduction**

Throughout the semester, you will learn the skills, techniques and vocabulary associated with the collection and analysis of data commonly used in a variety of natural science fields of study. The knowledge and abilities you gain in this course will be useful to you if you pursue graduate studies in science and/or if you become an earth or environmental science professional. More broadly, you will become knowledgeable about how to measure and interpret the quality of your local environment, which will be useful in many aspects of your life.

**Assessment**

Final grades will be calculated according to the following:

Field journal entries	20%
Assignments	40%
Forest Inventory and Analysis report	20%
Final presentation	20%

*Grading scheme*

A	90-100%	Excellent
B	80-89%	Good
C	70-79%	Fair
D	60-69%	Passing
F	<60%	Failing

## **Late policy**

Deadlines for submission of work are clearly indicated in this syllabus. Late submissions will be accepted and graded according to the following schedule: work submitted up to 24 hours after the deadline will receive a 25% penalty; work submitted between 24 and 48 hours after the deadline will receive a 50% penalty; and work submitted more than 48 hours after the deadline will not be accepted.

## **UNC Charlotte Code of Student Responsibility**

You are expected to observe the UNC Charlotte Code of Student Responsibility (see <http://legal.uncc.edu/policies/up-406>).

## **Electronic devices policy**

**The use of cell phones is not permitted in this course unless specifically requested by the instructor.** Persistent illicit cell phone use may result in a loss of marks and/or you will be asked to leave the classroom setting.

**The use of laptops is permitted in this course for viewing lecture slides and/or taking notes.** If you do plan on using a laptop for these purposes in the course, you must inform me immediately of your intention. Laptops used for any other purpose may result in a loss of marks or expulsion from the classroom setting.

## **UNC Charlotte Code of Student Academic Integrity**

You are expected to observe the UNC Charlotte Code of Student Academic Integrity (see <http://legal.uncc.edu/policies/up-407>). The Code prohibits cheating, the fabrication and falsification of information, multiple submission of the same work for credit, plagiarism, the abuse of academic materials, and complicity in academic dishonesty.

**If you are unclear as to what constitutes a violation of the Code, please see the TA or me during office hours.**

## **Students with disabilities**

If you have a disability for which you wish to receive academic accommodations, please provide me with a letter of accommodation from the Office of Disability Services at the beginning of the semester. For more information about disability services go to <http://ds.uncc.edu/>.

## **COVID-19 policy**

It is the policy of UNC Charlotte for the Fall 2020 semester that as a condition of on-campus enrollment, all students are required to engage in safe behaviors to avoid the spread of COVID-19 in the 49er community. Such behaviors specifically include the requirement that all students properly wear [CDC-compliant face coverings](#) while in buildings including in classrooms and labs. Students are permitted to remove face coverings in classroom or lab settings only when I explicitly grant permission to do so (such as while asking a question, participating in class discussion, or giving a presentation) and while at an appropriate physical distance from others. Failure to comply with this

policy in the classroom or lab may result in dismissal from the current class session. If the student refuses to leave the classroom or lab after being dismissed, the student may be referred to the Office of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity for charges under the [Code of Student Responsibility](#).

Students are expected to attend every class and remain in class for the duration of the session when it is safe to do so in accordance with university guidance regarding COVID-19. Failure to attend class or arriving late may impact your ability to achieve course objectives which could affect your course grade. An absence, excused or unexcused, does not relieve a student of any course requirement. Regular class attendance is a student's obligation, as is a responsibility for all the work of class meetings, including tests and written tasks. Any unexcused absence or excessive tardiness may result in a loss of participation points.

Students are encouraged to work directly with their instructors regarding their absence(s). For absences related to COVID-19, please adhere to the following:

- **Do not come to class if you are sick.** Please protect your health and the health of others by staying home. Contact your healthcare provider if you believe you are ill.
- **If you are sick:** If you test positive or are evaluated by a healthcare provider for [symptoms of COVID-19](#), [complete this form](#) to alert the University. Representatives from Emergency Management and/or the Student Health Center will follow up with you as necessary, and your instructors will be notified.
- **If you have been exposed** to COVID-19 positive individuals and/or have been notified to self-quarantine due to exposure, [complete this form](#) to alert the University. Representatives from Emergency Management and/or the Student Health Center will follow up with you as necessary, and your instructors will be notified.

To return to class after being absent due to a COVID-19 diagnosis or due to a period of self-quarantine, students should submit an [online request form](#) to Student Assistance and Support Services (SASS). Supporting documentation can be attached directly to the request form and should be from a student's health care provider or the Student Health Center, clearly indicating the dates of absences and the date the student is able to return to class. Instructors will be notified of such absences.

If you are absent from class as a result of a COVID-19 diagnosis or quarantine, as instructor I will do the following to help you continue to make progress in the course: provide remote learning options and assignments on a case-by-case basis. The final decision for approval of all absences and missed work is determined by the instructor.

**SEMESTER SCHEDULE (subject to change)**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Mode of instruction</b>	<b>Deliverable (on Canvas)</b>
1	Sept 9	Introduction to course Pace and Compass Mapping Exercise #1 Standard compass use	Zoom during regular class meeting time	
2	Sept 16	Pace and Compass Mapping Exercise #2	Zoom during regular class meeting time	Pace and Compass Mapping Exercise #1
3	Sept 23	Pace and Compass Mapping Exercise #3 with Google Earth Pro Benchmark and transit Datum, spheroid, projection, UTM	Zoom during regular class meeting time	Pace and Compass Mapping Exercise #2 Field journal (entries for weeks 1 & 2)
4	Sept 30	Orienteering activity	No meeting, complete activity on your own time	Pace and Compass Mapping Exercise #3
5	Oct 7	Toby Creek Channel Hydrology and Morphology Part I	In person at Toby Creek on campus	Field journal (entries for weeks 3 & 4)
6	Oct 14	Toby Creek Channel Hydrology and Morphology Part II	Zoom during regular class meeting time	
7	Oct 21	Groundwater and Wells – bail test Groundwater assignment	In person at Toby Creek on campus	Field journal (entries for weeks 5 & 6)
8	Oct 28	Soils assignment	No meeting, complete activity on your own time	Field journal (entry for week 7) Groundwater assignment
9	Nov 4	Weather stations & microclimate Microclimate assignment	Zoom during regular class meeting time	Soils assignment
10	Nov 11	Online climate data Climate assignment	Zoom during regular class meeting time	Microclimate assignment
11	Nov 18	Forest Inventory & Analysis (FIA) program Using Excel and FIA Data FIA Report	Zoom during regular class meeting time	Climate assignment
12	Nov 25	THANKSGIVING – NO CLASS		
13	Dec 2	Work individually on FIA Report	No meeting, complete activity on your own time	Using Excel and FIA Data
14	Dec 9	Work in groups on final presentation	No meeting, complete activity	FIA Report

			on your own time	
15	Dec 4	Final presentations	Zoom during regular class meeting time	