

# University of Toronto at Scarborough

## “PRINCIPLES OF HYDROLOGY”

(EES B04H3F, Fall 2013)

**Professor:** C.P.J. Mitchell      **Phone:** 416 208 2744      **Office:** SY-362  
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**Lecture Time:** Wednesdays, 9-11 am; MW-170  
**Office Hours:** Mondays, 1-2 pm, Wednesdays 11:00-11:30 am, and by appointment.  
**Course Web Site:** Everything on Blackboard (<https://portal.utoronto.ca>)  
**Teaching Assistants:** Kristine Haynes ([k.haynes@utoronto.ca](mailto:k.haynes@utoronto.ca))  
Alex Gudimov ([gudaleon@hotmail.com](mailto:gudaleon@hotmail.com))

**Practical Times:** Tut01: Wednesdays, 11am-1pm, Room AC334  
Tut02: Wednesdays, 3-5pm, Room MW120  
Tut03: Thursdays, 11am-1pm, Room IC320  
Tut04: Wednesdays, 11am-1pm, Room BV363  
**NOTE: Tutorial rooms are subject to change.**

**Text:** "Introduction to Physical Hydrology"  
[Author: Martin R. Hendriks; Publisher: Oxford, 331pp.]

### INTENT OF THE COURSE

Hydrology is the study of the occurrence, circulation, and distribution of water on the earth and in its atmosphere. The course is intended to be a comprehensive introduction to how water moves through terrestrial systems, both “naturally” and as a result of human alteration of the environment. Simply put, water is the source of life. When NASA goes looking for life on other planets, what is the first thing they look for? Water! Water is also a powerful buffer for energy - that is it takes very large amounts of energy either to heat water up or to evaporate it. How much water is stored at the surface therefore strongly affects the temperature of the surface, the temperature of the air above it and its behaviour. After introducing some of the fundamental concepts in hydrology, considerable focus will be placed on the interaction between water on the surface and water in the air, or atmosphere. Given the current concern about climate change, these surface-atmosphere interactions are of crucial importance globally. The hydrology of a system determines not only the temperature of the air above it, but also how much water vapour gets into the air mass by evaporation. This is another enormously important control on climate and rainfall.

Water is also an important vector for the transport of mass and energy (nutrients, toxins, pollutants, etc.) from place to place in the environment. Pollutants may be transported about via rainfall, streamflow, and seepage through the ground. For example, if you want to know what the nitrate ( $\text{NO}_3^-$ ) is doing in a system, first you have to know how the water in which the nitrate is in solution is moving through the system. The knowledge of water motion is a prerequisite for knowing where a solute is, how much is there, where it is moving to, and at what rate.

Hydrologic systems are complex and difficult to understand and model, and yet are critical in any sort of understanding of natural system processes at any scale. In order to understand, we have to make measurements. In order to make measurements we have to have some information about how the system works and how to make measurements and what those measurements mean. This course is about the fundamentals of how hydrologic systems work, how we can understand them better and how we can use that better understanding to make predictions of hydrologic system behaviour.

### ASSESSMENT IN THE COURSE

Mid-Term Test (Out of class; scheduled by Registrar)	20%
Four Assignments worth 10% each	40%
Final Examination (Scheduled by Registrar)	40%

## ASSIGNMENTS/TUTORIALS

You will have 4 assignments during the term, worth 40% of the final grade. The idea of the assignments is to teach you some practical hydrological skills and introduce you to some of the common instrumentation used by hydrologists in the field. We will be taking advantage of the field demonstration plot, located behind the Science Research Building, for example. **Note that you WILL be going outside (rain or shine) during your tutorial. Please dress accordingly (jackets and a decent pair of flat shoes are the minimum recommended).** In addition to this, you will be given assignments during your tutorial and TAs will instruct you on how to complete any necessary fieldwork and accompanying problem sets. Assignments are due on the dates shown in the schedule below. All assignments are due to your TA at the START of your tutorial time slot, except practical #4, which is due to Professor Mitchell at the START of the second last lecture of the year. **Attendance at tutorials is mandatory**, and tutorial #0 is crucial for getting information: you must attend! Part of the mark on your assignment (typically 10%) will be devoted to your attendance and active participation in tutorial exercises. Note that although tutorial rooms are included in this syllabus, sometimes they change the room without notifying anyone (often not even me). I will do my best ahead of time to let you know if rooms change. You should use a word processor for your written responses in your assignments. Your document should conform to the following: 25.4 mm margins, single-spaced, 12-point print size. The document must bear a handwritten name, signature, date and student number. **Calculations may be handwritten.**

## COURSE TEXT

"Introduction to Physical Hydrology" by Martin Hendriks, in the Bookstore. "Introduction to Physical Hydrology" is a relatively straightforward textbook that focuses on broad understanding, but also has more of the essential physical basis. As far as textbooks go, it is relatively inexpensive (~\$50). This book will provide a good background for course material, but you are very well served by attending each and every lecture. The very point of having a course taught to you (and not just reading a book) is the broader understanding, examples, and clarification that can be provided by your professor. **As far as your evaluations in this course goes (i.e., tests and exams), both assigned readings AND all lecture material is fair game.**

## MISSED TESTS/LATE PENALTIES FOR PRACTICALS

Make-ups will not be given for the mid-term test. If you miss the test for a verifiable reason (i.e. you have a Doctor's note or have made provisions for a VERY good reason with the professor **PRIOR** to the mid-term), the weight of the mid-term will be added to the weight of your final exam. If you simply "miss" the mid-term, you will receive a mark of zero for it. There will be no exceptions.

Late assignments will be penalized at a rate of 20%/day and assignments more than one day late will simply not be accepted. In short, **if you are MORE than one day late, you will get a zero on the assignment.** If you fail to hand in your assignment on time during your tutorial slot, you will be assessed a late penalty. If you plan on handing in your assignment late, it is your responsibility to hunt down your TA to hand it in.

## INTERACTION WITH THE PROFESSOR AND TEACHING ASSISTANTS

Professor Mitchell strongly encourages you to come to see him and speak with him about any facet of the course, portions you are having difficulty with, and things you found particularly interesting; all during his office hours (above) and/or immediately following class. He very much enjoys speaking with students about Hydrology. Your TA(s) also have office hours and you should take advantage of these for questions pertaining to your laboratory assignments. Your TA(s) is/are not responsible for knowing lecture material inside out, so if you have questions regarding lecture material, you are best to see Professor Mitchell in person (in particular, this includes questions about tests and exams). Neither Professor Mitchell nor the TA(s), however, will answer point-blank questions about specific questions on assignments, especially just prior to them being due. If you attend all lectures and all laboratories in an attentive manner, you should be well-prepared for completing excellent assignments and performing well on the mid-term and final exam.

Each and every student is expected to attend EVERY lecture. Professor Mitchell will not re-teach an entire class to someone because they missed it. Please rely on your fellow colleagues in the class for missing notes. Lecture slides will be posted on Blackboard, but little of what Professor Mitchell may "say" will actually be on those slides. It is important then to note that not only is lecture slide material fair game for testing, but everything that is said or discussed in class is also fair game. Lecture slides are posted to facilitate your learning DURING lecture and for you to avoid having to, for example, copy large diagrams while you should be taking notes or listening. In my opinion (but this may not relate to everyone), the best way to take notes is to

annotate the presentation slides with the important things I might say. All lecture notes will be posted on the Blackboard prior to each scheduled lecture.

**Email policy:** If at all possible, every effort should be made to meet, in person, with either Professor Mitchell or the TA(s) for questions pertaining to the course and assignments. Short emails will usually be answered with appropriate, short responses. Long, drawn out questions and/or questions pertaining to very general subjects, which are likely to be of interest to the entire class, should be posted on the Blackboard (Discussion Board module) so that the entire class may benefit from the answer. All emails should be sent via a “.utsc.utoronto.ca” or “.utoronto.ca” email address. Emails from other domains will likely be lost to spam filters and not responded to. **I can only guarantee email responses <48 hours after receiving them.**

## **BLACKBOARD INFORMATION**

### **Logging in to your Blackboard Course Website**

Like many other courses, EESB04 uses Blackboard for its course website. To access the EESB04 website, or any other Blackboard-based course website, go to the UofT portal login page at <http://portal.utoronto.ca> and log in using your UTORid and password. Once you have logged in to the portal using your UTORid and password, look for the My Courses module, where you'll find the link to the EESB04 course website along with the link to all your other Blackboard-based courses.

### **Activating your UTORid and Password**

If you need information on how to activate your UTORid and set your password for the first time, please go to <http://www.utorid.utoronto.ca>. Under the “First Time Users” area, click on “activate your UTORid” (if you are new to the university) or “create your UTORid” (if you are a returning student), then follow the instructions. New students who use the link to “activate your UTORid” will find reference to a “Secret Activation Key”. This was originally issued to you when you picked up your Tcard at the library. If you have lost your Secret Activation Key you can call 416-978-HELP or visit the Help Desk at the Information Commons on the ground floor of Robarts Library to be issued a new one. The course instructor will not be able to help you with this. 416-978-HELP and the Help Desk at the Information Commons can also answer any other questions you may have about your UTORid and password.

### **Email Communication with the Course Instructor**

At times, the course Instructor may decide to send out important course information by email. To that end, all UofT students are required to have a valid UofT email address. You are responsible for ensuring that your UofT email address is set up AND properly entered in the ROSI system. You can do that by using the following instructions:

To submit the information to activate your UTORid and password (see above), you will need to click the “Validate” button. Follow the instructions on the subsequent screens to receive your utoronto.ca address. Once you have your UofT email address, go to the ROSI system ([www.rosi.utoronto.ca](http://www.rosi.utoronto.ca)), log in and update the system with your new UofT email address.

### **You can check your UofT email account from**

1. The UofT home page <http://www.utoronto.ca>: From the Quick Links menu on the top right, choose “my.utoronto.ca”. Enter your UTORid and password, and when the Welcome page opens, click “WEBMAIL”.
2. Email software installed on your computer, for example Microsoft Outlook or Mozilla Thunderbird. Visit the Help Desk at the Information Commons or call 416-978-HELP for help with the set up.

Forwarding your utoronto.ca email to a Hotmail, Gmail, Yahoo or other type of email account is not advisable. In some cases, messages from utoronto.ca addresses sent to Hotmail, Gmail or Yahoo accounts are filtered as junk mail, which means that emails from your course instructor may end up in your spam or junk mail folder.

### **You are responsible for:**

1. Ensuring you have a valid UofT email address that is properly entered in the ROSI system
2. Checking your UofT email account on a regular basis as email is the primary means of professor-to-student communication outside of regular classroom hours.

## LECTURE OUTLINE / SCHEDULE

DATE	LECTURE CONTENT	
Sept. 4	Ground Rules, Introduction, the Historical Development of Hydrology, and Some Basic Concepts in Hydrology  Reading: Chapter 1	
Sept. 11	Basic Concepts in Hydrology, Hydrological Quantities, and The Hydrological Cycle  Reading: Chapter 1	<b>TUTORIAL #0 THIS WEEK.</b>
Sept. 18	Global Energy and Surface Radiation Balance, Precipitation, Interception and Throughfall  Reading: Chapter 2	<b>TUTORIAL #1 THIS WEEK.</b>
Sept. 25	Snow, Snowmelt, and Frozen Ground  Reading: none	
Oct. 2	Evapotranspiration  Reading: Chapter 2	<b>ASSIGNMENT #1 DUE. TUTORIAL #2 THIS WEEK.</b>
Oct. 9	Groundwater, Groundwater-Surface Water Interactions  Reading: Chapter 3	
Oct. 16	NO CLASSES THIS WEEK – FALL READING WEEK	
Oct. 23	Soil Water and Infiltration I  Reading: Chapter 4	<b>ASSIGNMENT #2 DUE. TUTORIAL #3 THIS WEEK.</b>
Oct. 30	Runoff and Streamflow  Reading: Chapter 5	
Nov. 6	Runoff and Streamflow II  Reading: Chapter 5	<b>ASSIGNMENT #3 DUE. TUTORIAL #4 THIS WEEK.</b>
Nov. 13	Water Quality and Biogeochemistry Reading: none	
Nov. 20	Hydrology in the Urban Context  Reading: none	<b>ASSIGNMENT #4 DUE.</b>
Nov. 27	Human Alteration of the Hydrological Cycle  Reading: none	

## **ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT**

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the AccessAbility Services Office as soon as possible. I will work with you and AccessAbility Services to ensure you can achieve your learning goals in this course. Enquiries are confidential. The UTSC AccessAbility Services staff (located in S302) are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations. (416) 287-7560 or [ability@utsc.utoronto.ca](mailto:ability@utsc.utoronto.ca).

## **STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT**

Please arrive promptly for lecture and do not forget to turn off cell phones and laptops. You are fully expected to abide by the Code of Student Conduct as set out by The Governing Council at the University of Toronto (<http://www.utoronto.ca/govcncl/pap/policies/studentc.html>). This document defines the standards by which students are to conduct themselves within class and within the University community at large. Please be advised that misconduct of any form will not be tolerated in this class. This includes plagiarism on tests, assignments, and exams, which will be strictly enforced and is easily detected. If you have further questions regarding what constitutes plagiarism or other academic offences, feel free to speak with Prof. Mitchell or your TA.

## **SOME FINAL WORDS OF ADVICE**

This course is moderately technically demanding and there are plenty of things that will be unfamiliar, at least in the context of Hydrology. It is difficult to "crash and burn" because of the large number of elements in the course. It is, however (and for the same reason), a considerable task to maintain a high standard. You cannot do really well if you do very poorly on any element, so be vigilant: a really bad mid-term, for example, can make a difference of a whole letter grade to your final mark.