



### **Wildfires out of control in Santa Paula, California October 31, 2019**

Hi everyone! My name is professor **Lowell Stott**. I'm a climate scientist and professor of Earth Sciences at USC. I've been doing climate research and teaching students about climate variability and change for the past 30 years.

When I started studying climate change the notion of "Global Warming" was not on anybody's radar screen. But as an Earth Scientist I was exploring how Earth's climate varied in the past. What we learned is that many of Earth's major environmental disruptions that affected life on our planet were associated with climate change.

That inspired me to start teaching a class at USC called "Climate Change". I've been teaching this class for the past 17 years! I've learned a number of things along the way. And other scientists like myself have also learned a many new things. I'd like to share this knowledge with you!

Climate change will take place in your lifetime. The extent of climate change and the associated environmental impacts of those changes will be an important part of your future. So, I hope you'll consider joining me in this class in the Fall of 2020.

I'm going to do my best to give you the 'facts' and to convey the information in a way that you can understand without having had any previous exposure to climate science. There are some aspects that are more technical than others, but the goal of this class is to give you information you need to make informed decisions about your future and the future of our society. At the end you'll understand what factors influence our climate and how rising greenhouse gasses in the atmosphere will affect the climate of your future. It's not just rising temperatures! There are many consequences of climate change.

I'm finalizing the syllabus for the class for Fall semester 2020. Once that is completed, I'll post it online.

Here's a few things you need to know. We're learning online this fall!

1. My lectures will be presented using **Zoom**.
2. **WE WILL NOT** use a textbook. We'll use my **lecture notes** as our primary text, which will be available to you along with any additional reading materials.
3. We'll also have a weekly lab. These labs will be taught by a graduate student in Earth Science. Please note that the LABS will all be taught online so that you can take this entire class remotely from wherever you are.
4. Lectures will be MWF from 10-10:50. I promise you that the 50 minutes we spend together MWF will go quickly.
5. There will be two midterm exams (multiple choice, each exam is 50 questions).  
Please keep in mind that exams will be conducted online and there will be some instructions given to you about how we'll do those exams online.
6. A final exam (100 questions). One third of the questions are based on the final lectures of the semester. The other 2/3 of the questions are from the previous parts of the class lectures.

As you make your decision about a GE class, please drop me an email if you have a question about GEOL 150. My address is: [stott@usc.edu](mailto:stott@usc.edu)