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 caused by 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 it 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.

1. We’ll use a textbook that was designed as college introduction to climate change. We’ll also have a weekly lab. These labs will be taught by a graduate student in Earth Science.

2. Lectures will be MWF from 10-10:50. I know that some other GE classes are taught only 2 days each week. But these courses involve a ~2 hour lecture. I’ve found that students don’t like sitting in a lecture for 2 hours. But I also understand, the advantage of taking a class that meets only twice per week. I promise you that the 50 minutes we spend together MWF will go quickly.

3. There will be two mid term exams (multiple choice, each 50 questions).

4. There are reading assignments (one chapter per week). And a few questions to answer at the end of each chapter.

5. 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