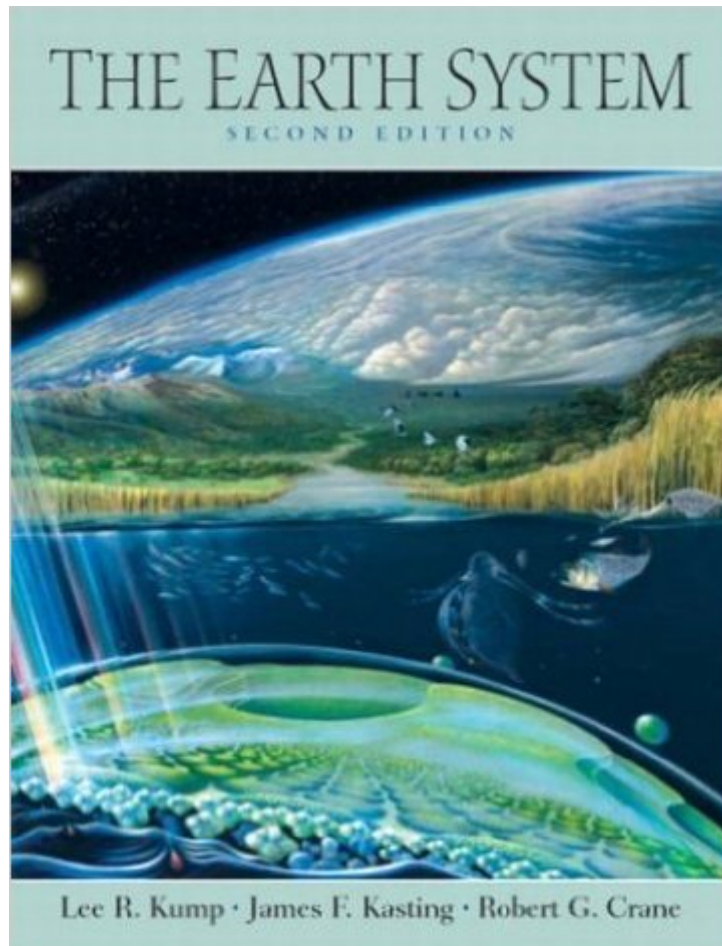


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Earth System, The (2nd Edition)



Synopsis

For courses in Earth Systems Science offered in departments of Geology, Earth Science, Geography and Environmental Science. The first textbook of its kind that addresses the issues of global change from a true Earth systems perspective, The Earth System offers a solid emphasis on lessons from Earth's history that may guide decision-making in the future. The text is more quantitative than the standard Earth science book, but the authors have remained sensitive to the needs of non-science majors.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I'm a prof at a small liberal arts college, and I love using this text in my course on global environmental change. It works well with non-science majors, as well as with the more advanced science students. It does a superb job with climate change science, which is one of the major focii in my course. It doesn't hesitate to use real physics, math, and chemistry, yet at the same time is accessible to the non-science folks. Lee Kump is one of the premiere geoscientists in the field, and he has lent his broad understanding to this excellent text. It might also be fun to simply read the book if you are not a student. The 3rd edition is quite similar to the 2nd, with additional material from the 2007 IPCC report.

What I wrote for the 2nd edition can be applied to this edition: Earth System Science is a new field, one that evolves much more quickly than textbooks can be revised. This one is as current as you

can expect, and it approaches the field of science in a much better way than any other textbook I have seen. In particular, most earth system texts approach the field by morphing from a traditional discipline. Usually, it's a geology textbook revised to include atmospheric, oceanic, and climatic studies. But earth system science requires an interdisciplinary approach from the start, a problem based approach. Our global environmental problems need this approach, and this book covers them in a reasonably detailed and accurate manner. This 3rd edition has a new short chapter on the cryosphere. Many recent studies have highlighted the dramatic changes in the cryosphere, so this chapter is a welcome addition. In addition, results and figures from the IPCC 2007 are included, which makes this update worth getting in and of itself given the rapid advances in climate science. I still find the structure of the book, with themes of climate change, stratospheric ozone depletion and loss of biodiversity, to be an outstanding format, as the authors draw links between past, present and future. Impressively, I find that this book is suitable for science and non-science majors alike.

Kump has worked with James Lovelock of 'Gaia' fame on modelling Daisyworld. I'll let the reviewer discover what that means in this title. (But also see REVENGE OF GAIA, 2006, for Lovelock's predictions for our heating planet). This is the best book for geoscientists and geographers in training who have an interest in climate past, present, and future. An excellent college level scientific supplement to popular works on climate change and earth systems science.

Highly recommended to those interested in any field of geoscience. This book is very clear and precise. It gives a comprehensive, interdisciplinary overview of our planet. As a matter of fact, it's among some of the most well written textbooks I've ever come across.

I got to University in Reno, NV and am ALWAYS looking for ways to save money in college... that process often goes into full force at the beginning of each semester as I scour the interwebs for cheap text books (often older editions). Because the class (Atmospheric Science 121) has just started and I have JUST received the book I have no knowledge of how easy/fun/not-boring this book is to read, BUT, I do have the basics to compare this to the 3rd edition (which is \$50+ more)... here are the notes I took while comparing a classmate's 3rd edition to this one. LISTED BELOW ARE ALL THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN 2ND AND 3RD EDITIONS: Chapter 6 talks about "The Cryosphere" in the 3rd Ed. The 2nd edition's 6th chapter seems to have been phased out by 3rd Ed. Chapter 8 adds "Phosphorus & Nitrogen Cycles" at the end of this chapter in 3rd Ed. Chapter 15-16 have mixed up the "Global Warming" sections but most titles are the same within the chapters

in 3rd Ed. Chapter 17 has two added titles of "Evidence of Midlatitude Ozone Depletion" & "Mechanisms for halting ozone depletion" in 3rd Ed. Chapter 18 and 19 DO NOT EXIST IN THIS 2ND EDITION... '18=Human threats to biodiversity' & '19=Climate stability on earth and earthlike planets' in 3rd Ed. With a bit of 'on the spot thinking' and some intelligence I am sure this book will work for a class that requires you to buy the newest-sparkling-most-fanciest-edition, MOST of the information seems to be in both this book and the newer book. You just have to decide if saving an extra \$50 is worth the small hassle of chasing down information this older book may leave out. I personally think the effort is worth it, PLUS, it gives you a reason to find someone in the class you fancy and become their study partner/book sharer. Now THAT is a trick everyone should master. :) Happy readings.

I'm a prof at a small liberal arts college, and I love using this text in my upper level course on global change. It works well with non-science majors, as well as with the more advanced science students. It does a superb job with climate change science, which is one of the major foci in my course. It doesn't hesitate to use real physics, math, and chemistry, yet at the same time is accessible to the non-science folks. Lee Kump is one of the premiere geoscientists in the field, and he has lent his broad understanding to this excellent text. It might also be fun to simply read the book if you are not a student.

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