

Configuring Your Class

EarthEd is configured with a combination of mySQL database tables and text files, resident on the earthednet.org server. Each course has its own server directory and each teacher has a library directory on the server where assignment and resource files are stored. All uploaded resources are shared by all teachers. The metadata for these files is stored in mySQL database tables.

All course configuration and student management functions are done in the **Manager** environment. The Manager is accessed when you log in as a teacher, or in the "Locations" dropdown menu in the **Student** environment (*@EarthEd Index: ▼Locations ↴ Manager*), that resides at the upper left portion of the screen.

Overview of Manager operations:

Making a new course

Contact Prothero. I will set up the system for you. Ultimately, this will be automatic. What I do is set up a sandbox course for you to learn the system in. When you want to work on a course you will teach, I will set that up for you.

Setting your course assignments and other parameters:

This will soon be done using a point and click interface. However, until this is finished, the instructions in the "ClassConfig" appendix will help you set the important parameters.

Class assignments:

Class assignments are created in the **Manager** environment. The class assignments portion of EarthEd is complete, except for accessing the image library to add images to new problems. Assignments can be constructed from auto-graded problems, random selections of auto-graded problems, feedback questions, short answer questions (coming soon), writing assignments, and assignments that are delivered outside the EarthEd environment. Outside assignment grades are entered in the "Student Management" module (*@Manager: ▼Operations ↴ Student Management*).

Individual assignment problems are selected and/or created within the Manager. The problems database is searchable and shared by all teachers. Problems can be edited by the author and others can copy and make changes to any problem. The assignment of metadata is required prior to storing the problem on the class database.

Writing assignments are created within the Writer module. Assignments can be specified so that the teacher or teaching assistant does the grading, or in calibrated peer review format where students review and grade each others' papers.

Entering student grades:

EarthEd keeps track of student grades, applies late penalties, and calculates the student's current course grade. Grades are assigned to categories, where each category receives a percentage of the total grade. An extra credit category allows students to improve their grade. Assignments can be worked multiple times, and penalties for exceeding a certain number of times can be applied.

Writing assignment grades are entered in the Writer module. Homework grades are automatically generated as the student does the assignment.

In addition, grades can be entered manually for non-EarthEd assignments in the "Student Management" module (*Manager:Operations* ↘ *Student Management*). EarthEd attempts to calculate the student's grade according to the most current information and compensates for assignments that are past due, but the grade is not yet entered by the teacher. Manually entered grades over-ride any previously entered grade, so corrections can be made when needed.

Configuration Details:

In order to make a new class, several operations are needed. An entry in the teachers database identifies you as an EarthEdOnline teacher. Then an entry in the courseResources database is made which specifies a course, its title, and the teacher. The last operation is to copy a course from the "Templates" directory to your course directory on the earthednet.org server. Currently, this is done by Prothero, but will be automated during late summer and Fall, 2006.

The template course will have a "ClassConfig" file that specifies various course settings, and all of the course assignments. The format of this file is discussed in detail below.

The ClassConfig file is edited in the "Student Management" module

(@Manager: ▼Operations ↴Student Management: ☉Edit Assignments: ▼Choose File to Edit ↴ClassConfig)

The ClassConfig file from the Template class is listed below. Comments have been inserted to show what each item represents. These are for clarity only and do not appear in the ClassConfig file. Comments are indicated by text beginning with "///". Note also that each setting begins with text that defines the name of the setting. So, the line "**** dataModuleOptions*" indicates that the line that follows will define the variable "dataModuleOptions".

```
**** dataModuleOptions* //Data modules that appear in the Data menu must be listed here. There are only 3 available.
ODP,GLODV,MARVE
**** theCheckPlusMinusScores* //Some assignments are graded check plus, minus. These are percentage scores.
75,85,100
**** isSections* //This is not used, but left in for compatibility.
0
**** lab1StartDate* //Set to Monday of the start week of classes. All assignment dates are relative to this date
5/8/2006
**** weeksincourse* //10 for quarter, 14 (or whatever) for semester.
10
**** cycleStartDay* //Leave this at 1. It originally was used to allow the lab sections to cross week boundaries
1 //but is untested in this version of EarthEd.
**** cutoffDate* //Date after which students cannot improve their grade by re-doing homework assignments.
10/3/2007
**** theClassWebPage* //Use your own class web page. This is linked in the "Help" menu on all student screens.
http://earthednet.org/~gs4/W2005/Index.html
**** theClassHelpPath* //Site containing software help pages
http://earthedonline.org/
**** theClassHelpPage* // If there is a special student software help page, this is it.
EED_Online/HelpIndex.htm
**** defaultForums* //Default discussion forums. The discussion capability has not been upgraded to the current
Frequently Given Answers,1,0 //version, so is not implemented.
WholeClass,0,0
Lab 7 EarthSummit,0,0
**** muServerAddress* //Online chat server address. Online chat not implemented in current version.
oceanography.geol.ucsb.edu
**** warnversion* //Put up a warning message if the student's software version is less than this number
4.51
**** dieversion* //Do not allow students to run EarthEd if their version is less than this number
4.60
**** allowEditShortCuts* //Allows students to paste text from outside EarthEd without it becoming italicized.
TRUE //TRUE = allow, FALSE = do not allow
**** theDefinitions* //Grade category definitions
HW = Homework:
LAB= Lab Activities:
WR = Writing Assignments
```

QD = Questions of the Day
 EC = Extra Credit
 FIN = Final Exam
 **** theCredits* //Percentage of class grade for each of the categories.
 HW,20%
 LAB,15%
 WR,35%
 QD,10%
 EC,10%
 FIN,20%
 **** theSections*
 No Sections
 **** theTeachers*
 William Prothero
 William Prothero
 William Prothero
 William Prothero
 **** theStartTimes*
 Tuesday, 12:00 PM, 1:50 PM
 **** totalGradePerc*
 100
 **** useCountryGroups*
 1
 **** theProfs*
 William Prothero
 **** theTAs*
 William Prothero
 William Prothero
 **** hwPropertyDefinitions*
 displayName,assignmentID,dueDate,dueTime,points,gradeCategory,latePenalties,maxTries,gradeEntryType,showInHWList,assignmentType,comment
 **** hwPropertyDefinitions*
 displayName,assignmentID,dueDate,dueTime,points,gradeCategory,latePenalties,maxTries,gradeEntryType,showInHWList,assignmentType,comment
 **** hwPropertyDefinitions*
 displayName,assignmentID,dueDate,dueTime,points,gradeCategory,latePenalties,maxTries,gradeEntryType,showInHWList,assignmentType,comment
 **** hwPropertyDefinitions*
 displayName,assignmentID,dueDate,dueTime,points,gradeCategory,latePenalties,maxTries,gradeEntryType,showInHWList,assignmentType,comment
 **** theHomeworks*
 My Info,47,Week: 0,section begin,1,EC,,auto,true,SURV,
 Writing With Integrity,8,Week: 2-Mon*,11:00,3,,NP,2,none,true,RDG,
 Homework 2,73,Week: 2,section begin,20,HW,NP:120h,16,auto,true,HW,
 Homework 3,72,Week: 3,section begin,20,HW,,6,auto,true,HW,
 Homework 4,25,Week: 4,section begin,20,HW,,6,auto,true,HW,
 Homework 5,26,Week: 5,section begin,20,HW,,6,auto,true,HW,
 Homework 6,76,Week: 6,section begin,20,HW,,12,auto,true,HW,
 Homework 7,28,Week: 7,section begin,20,HW,,6,auto,true,HW,
 Homework 8,29,Week: 8,section begin,20,HW,,6,auto,true,HW,
 Dummy Assignment,*,Week: 11-Sat*,03:59,0,HW,NP,,auto,true,HW,
 Lab Section 2,*,Week: 2,section begin,10,LAB,NP,,manual,false,,
 Lab 2 Feedback,87,Week: 3,section begin,2,EC,,auto,true,SURV,
 Lab Section 3,*,Week: 3,section begin,10,LAB,NP,,manual,false,,
 Lab 3 Feedback,87,Week: 4,section begin,2,EC,,auto,true,SURV,
 Lab Section 4,*,Week: 4,section begin,10,LAB,NP,,manual,false,,
 Lab 4 Feedback,87,Week: 5,section begin,2,EC,,auto,true,SURV,
 Lab Section 5,*,Week: 5,section begin,10,LAB,NP,,manual,false,,
 Software Fdbk 1,88,Week: 5,section begin,2,EC,,auto,true,SURV,

Lab 5 Feedback,87,Week: 6,section begin,2,EC,,,auto,true,SURV,
 Lab Section 6,*,Week: 6,section begin,10,LAB,NP,,manual,false,,
 Lab 6 Feedback,87,Week: 7,section begin,2,EC,,,auto,true,SURV,
 Lab section 7,*,Week: 7,section begin,10,LAB,NP,,manual,false,,
 Lab 7 Feedback,87,Week: 8,section begin,2,EC,,,auto,true,SURV,
 Lab Section 8,*,Week: 8,section begin,10,LAB,NP,,manual,false,,
 Lab 8 Feedback,87,Week: 9,section begin,2,EC,,,auto,true,SURV,
 Lab Section 9,*,Week: 9,section begin,10,LAB,NP,,manual,false,,
 Lab 9 Feedback,87,Week: 10,section begin,2,EC,,,auto,true,SURV,
 Intro Writing Assignment,57,Week: 2,section begin,2,WR,,,manual,true,WR,
 Beach Desc,44,Week: 3,section begin,2,WR,,,manual,true,WR,
 Plate Tectonics CPR Paper,10,Week: 4-Mon*,16:00,20,WR,,,manual,true,CPR,
 Plate Tectonics CPR Paper Reviews,10,Week: 4-Sat*,23:59,9,WR,,,manual,true,AL,Calibration and peer reviews due:
 Plate Tectonics CPR Feedback,90,Week: 5-Fri*,23:59,2,EC,,,auto,true,SURV,
 Monsoon CPR Paper,41,Week: 5-Mon*,23:59,20,WR,,,manual,true,CPR,
 Monsoon CPR Paper Reviews,41,Week: 6-Fri*,23:59,9,WR,,,none,true,AL,Calibration and peer reviews due:
 Monsoon CPR Paper Feedback,90,Week: 8-Wed*,23:59,2,EC,,,auto,true,SURV,
 Climate CPR Paper,42,Week: 8-Mon*,23:59,20,WR,,,manual,true,CPR,
 Climate CPR Paper Reviews,42,Week: 8-Fri*,23:59,9,WR,,,none,true,AL,Calibration and peer reviews due:
 Climate CPR Paper Feedback,90,Week: 8-Fri*,23:59,2,EC,,,auto,true,SURV,
 Fisheries CPR Paper,43,Week: 10-Mon*,23:59,20,WR,,,manual,true,CPR,
 Fisheries CPR Paper Reviews,43,Week: 10-Fri*,23:59,9,WR,,,none,true,AL,Calibration and peer reviews due:
 Fisheries CPR Paper Feedback,90,Week: 10-Fri*,23:59,6,EC,,,auto,true,SURV,
 Final Feedback,91,Week: 10-Fri*,23:59,2,EC,,,auto,true,SURV,
 Earth Structure Quiz,77,Week: 3-Thurs*,11:00,10,EC,NP:168h,,auto,true,Quiz,
 Plate Tectonics Quiz,12,Week: 4-Thurs*,11:00,10,EC,,,auto,true,Quiz,
 Atmosphere Quiz,78,Week: 5-Thurs*,11:00,10,EC,,,auto,true,Quiz,
 Ocean Currents Quiz,81,Week: 6-Thurs*,11:00,10,EC,,,auto,true,Quiz,
 Climate Quiz,85,Week: 7-Thurs*,11:00,10,EC,,,auto,true,Quiz,
 Waves Quiz,84,Week: 8-Thurs*,11:00,10,EC,,,auto,true,Quiz,
 Productivity HW Quiz,82,Week: 9,section begin,10,HW,NP,,auto,true,Quiz,
 Profile Game: Feature 1,46,Week: 3,section begin,2,HW,NP:290h,,auto,true,AL,Use the Data Access Dropdown menu to get to
 Our Dynamic Planet
 Profile Game: Feature 2,46,Week: 3,section begin,2,HW,NP:290h,,auto,true,AL,Use the Data Access Dropdown menu to get to
 Our Dynamic Planet
 Profile Game: Feature 3,46,Week: 3,section begin,2,HW,NP:290h,,auto,true,AL,Use the Data Access Dropdown menu to get to
 Our Dynamic Planet
 Profile Game: Feature 4,46,Week: 3,section begin,2,HW,NP:290h,,auto,true,AL,Use the Data Access Dropdown menu to get to
 Our Dynamic Planet
 Profile Game: Random 1,46,Week: 3,section begin,4,HW,NP:290h,,auto,true,AL,Use the Data Access Dropdown menu to get to
 Our Dynamic Planet
 Profile Game: Random 2,46,Week: 3,section begin,4,HW,NP:290h,,auto,true,AL,Use the Data Access Dropdown menu to get to
 Our Dynamic Planet
 Geography Game: Continents,46,Week: 3,section begin,2,EC,NP,,auto,true,AL,Use the Data Access Dropdown menu to get to
 Our Dynamic Planet
 Final Exam,*,Week: 11-Thurs*,12:00,100,FIN,NP,,manual,false,,

!! The hand text editing of these files is only temporary, until the point and click user interface is completed. This instruction field will be enhanced if the point and click software is not completed by the time you want to use the software in your course.

Formats of configuration files:

Announcements:

This is just a text file. Enter the text you want to appear in the announcements field

when the student logs into EarthEd.

Assignment Exceptions (point and click interface coming soon):

This allows you to change the due time for a particular student without changing it for the entire class. The format is:

```
####<assignment display name>#  
****<student nameID>*  
new due date
```

Notes: the student nameID is the student's name, as it appears in the student list, but with an underscore in the blank space. Example: TesterJ_123456 <last name><first initial><underscore><6 digit ID number>. So, the student's name in the example, is Joe Tester and her ID is 123456.

The due date is mo/day/year,time. e.g. 3/3/2007,13:45 or 3/3/2007,1:45PM. You can use AM and PM if you want.

ClassConfig:

This file controls the configuration of the class assignments. Edit with caution!! Making a point and click editor for this is a high priority, but until it's done, this is the only way you have of changing due dates, assignment points, late penalties, etc.

Note that there are various parameters that are set, and they are indicated in lines like:

```
**** parameter*  
theSetting
```

The main settings you will be changing, prior to the new interface becoming available, are the assignment due times. Assignments are specified under the parameter: **** theHomeworks*.

--> Each line under "theHomeworks" corresponds to an assignment

--> The parameters for each assignment are set by changing the text between the commas.(the "items")

--> Each "item" corresponds to a specific setting for the assignment.

-> The "item" meanings are specified in the ****hwPropertyDefinitions* line above the ****theHomeworks* line.

Assignment settings item definitions: for a **hwPropertyDefinitions* as follows:**

displayName,assignmentID,dueDate,dueTime,points,
gradeCategory,latePenalties,maxTries,gradEntryType,showInHWList,assignmentType,
comment

Assignment settings:

1. displayName. This is what the student sees in the assignment list
2. assignmentID number, from the "assignments" database. You can get these from the "Class Resources" dbase viewer.

3. dueDate, specified as the week of the course.

Example: **Week 3** (when the due time is at a lab section start). If the Due time is to be set to an absolute time, the DueDate would be **Week 3-Sat***. Note the asterix after the Sat. This signifies an absolute time

4. dueTime: this could be relative to a lab section, or an absolute time. To set it relative to lab section, enter **section begin**. To set it to an absolute time, set the hours and minutes according to a 24 hr clock. e.g. **14:45**

Recommendations: If there is only one lab section, you can set prelab homeworks to an absolute time, but for multiple lab sections, be sure the lab start times are set correctly, and students are in the correct lab section.

5. Points: number of points assigned to the assignment

6. gradeCategory: This affects how the grade will be computed. The categories are defined in the ****theDefinitons* and ****theCredits* settings in the ClassConfig file. For example, if the grade category is **HW**, then the grade for the assignment will go toward the percentage credit of the **HW** category.

7. latePenalties: NP = no penalty, NP:120h means no late penalties for 120 hours past the due date. See the docs for the standard late penalties are defined in the software, but will be settable in the class configuration file in the future.

8. maxTries: after the specified number of tries, 1% is subtracted from the possible score for additional tries.

9. gradeEntryType: this can be **auto** or **manual**.

10. showInHWList: **true** to show, **false** to not show. This is the list where students select assignments to do. You should set this to false for assignments where students do the assignment outside of the EarthEd environment. e.g. an in-class "Question of the Day" that is graded.

11. assignmentType:

CPR calibrated peer review writing assignment

WR teacher graded writing assignment

Quiz online quiz

AL alarm. A dialog comes up with the text in the comments section

SURV a survey

HW a homework assignment

Note: for a CPR assignment, there should be 3 entries. The first is the actual writing assignment, the second is for the reviews, and the third is for the evaluation. Here's an example:

----- example entry for cpr -----Each line may be wrapped.

Line 1: Plate Tectonics CPR Paper, 10, Week: 4-Mon*, 16:00, 20, WR,,, manual, true, CPR,

Line 2: Plate Tectonics CPR Paper Reviews, 10, Week: 4-Sat*, 23:59, 9, WR,,, manual, true, AL, Calibration and peer reviews due:

Line 3: Plate Tectonics CPR Feedback, 90, Week: 5-Fri*, 23:59, 2, EC,,, auto, true, SURV,

----- end of cpr example entry -----Check your entries in the Assignments index that the students see.

Note: The display name in the second line must be exactly the same as the first line, except have a space and the word **Reviews** after it.

12. comment: This is text for the AL type entries where only a dialog reminding the student of an assignment comes up. This can be used to remind students of assignments that do not use EarthEd, or for advance reminders for longer assignments.

Units Dictionary:

Again, a point and click editor is planned, as are custom units dictionaries. Currently, the units dictionary is shared between all classes, so please contact Prothero before making any changes, for now.

