

*Western University – ES4490E 2014-2015*  
*Senior Undergraduate Thesis*

**Counsellor:**

Dr. Phil McCausland  
Office: B&GS 0187  
Phone: 519-661-2111 x88008  
E-mail: [pmccaust@uwo.ca](mailto:pmccaust@uwo.ca)

**Coordinator:**

Mr. Kevin Jordan  
Office: B&GS 1044  
Phone: 519-661-2111 x84523  
E-mail: [kjorda5@uwo.ca](mailto:kjorda5@uwo.ca)

**ES 4490E Course Syllabus**

**Purpose:** This course is intended to offer you the opportunity to conduct independent research under the guidance of a supervisor. Your supervisor(s) will also have the opportunity to evaluate your capability to conduct individual, independent research as you develop your Senior Thesis.

**Prerequisites:** Registration in year four of a Specialization, Honors Specialization, or Professional Program offered by the Department of Earth Sciences, or permission of the Department. Please note that, “Unless you have either the prerequisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.”

**Responsibilities:** The student will conduct *independent* research under the guidance of a supervisor and meet all deadlines (please see Course Outline and timetable for more detail). The supervisor will provide guidance similar to what is accorded to an incoming MSc student.

**Meetings:** The scheduled class meeting timeslot for ES 4490E is Tuesday 1:30-2:30pm in BGS 1084 during the Fall term and Monday 1:30-2:30pm in BGS 1084 during the Winter term. The meetings will be an important means of communication. The meetings, although scheduled weekly, will be held only as circumstances require (i.e., when there is information to convey).

---

**ES 4490E Grading Scheme** (for more detail, please see the Course Outline)

<b>1) Thesis (50%)</b>	*5 mark deduction within 3 days; 10 marks after
<b>2) Research Performance (30%)</b>	Based on reports, interviews and 1 <sup>st</sup> presentation
<b>3) Oral presentation (15%)</b>	Final presentation
<b>4) Academic participation (5%)</b>	Based on attendance & participation in Colloquia

*\*All dates will be finalized at the first course meeting.*

---

**Academic participation:** As part of the learning process I expect all students to participate actively in meetings and Departmental Colloquia. **Remember that 5% of your grade is assigned to attendance and participation.** Here are some guidelines to keep in mind:

- You arrive at course meetings and Colloquia on time and are not absent without reason. ...Please arrange for absences beforehand if you anticipate not being able to participate.
- You display body language that communicates interest in what others are saying.
- You ask questions that are thoughtful, penetrating or help clarify concepts.
- You actively encourage others to express their ideas or questions.
- You make outstanding, original, and informative comments.

*Western University – ES4490E 2014-2015*  
*Senior Undergraduate Thesis*

**Accessibility:** Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.

**Illness:** If you are unable to meet a course requirement due to illness or other serious circumstances, you must provide valid medical or other supporting documentation to the Dean's office as soon as possible and contact your instructor immediately. It is the student's responsibility to make alternative arrangements with their instructor once the accommodation has been approved and the instructor has been informed. In the event of a missed final exam, a "Recommendation of Special Examination" form must be obtained from the Dean's Office immediately. For further information please see:

<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/medical.pdf>.

A student requiring academic accommodation due to illness should use the Student Medical Certificate when visiting an off-campus medical facility or request a Records Release Form (located in the Dean's Office) for visits to Student Health Services. The form can be found here:

[https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical\\_document.pdf](https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical_document.pdf)

**Statement on Academic Offences:** Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf>.

**Plagiarism:** The following official statement on Plagiarism is standard for all Western courses and is especially pertinent here!

“Plagiarism: Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).”

Note that student submitted written materials in ES 4490E may be subject to analysis using a similarity score software package such as Turnitin. ...But I trust that this will not be necessary in a Senior Undergraduate course.

*Western University – ES4490E 2014-2015*  
*Senior Undergraduate Thesis*

**Earth Sciences 4490E Thumbnail Schedule of Events and Deadlines for 2014-2015**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Actions</b>
<b>Tuesday, Sept 16, 2014</b>	All Projects circulated to ES4490E students	<b>Class meeting 1:30 pm, BGS 1084</b>
<b>Monday, Sept 29</b>	Project Selection Form due Supervisor, Project title, <b>Description</b> (less than 100 words) due	Submit form to K. Jordan To P. McCausland by email
<b>Tuesday, Sept 30</b>	All signed paperwork due, including Health & Safety Forms	Hand in to K. Jordan by noon
<b>Wednesday, Nov 5</b>	Submission of First Progress Report	Submit report to Supervisor
<b>by Wednesday, Nov 12</b>	Supervisor interviews student Supervisor provides First Progress Report evaluation (with grade). Students must ensure that this is done!	Grade to McCausland by Nov. 12, 2014
HAPPY NEW YEAR!		
<b>Monday Jan 5, 2015</b>	Preparation for Presentation	<b>Class meeting 1:30 pm, BGS 1084</b>
<b>Friday Jan 9, 2015</b>	<b>Presentation</b> of Thesis Proposal (marked by all faculty, supervisors)	Department Colloquium
<b>Wednesday, Jan 21</b>	Submission of Second Progress Report	Submit report to Supervisor
<b>by Wednesday, Jan 28</b>	Supervisor interviews student Supervisor provides Second Progress Report evaluation (grade). Students ensure that this is done!	Grade to McCausland by Jan. 28, 2015
<b>Wednesday, Feb 25</b>	Submission of Third Progress Report (Complete draft of thesis with all sections included)	<b>Submit complete thesis draft to your Supervisor(s)</b>
<b>by Wed, March 11</b>	Supervisor interviews student to review complete draft of thesis; returns thesis to student with comments. Supervisor provides mark for 3 <sup>rd</sup> Report	Grade to McCausland by Mar. 11, 2014
<b>Wednesday, March 18</b>	<b>Complete Thesis copy due by high noon.</b> The thesis needs to include a statement from the supervisor(s) that thesis-related lab/field data have been received. Marks penalty for late submission is 5 marks if late by up to three days, 10 marks if late by more than three days. ...Thesis reviewers have just two weeks (until Thursday, April 2) to review!	<b>Submit thesis copy to K. Jordan or OWL site</b>
<b>Friday, March 27, 2015</b>	<b>ES4490 Presentation Day</b> (Department Event)	<b>All day</b> , place TBA
<b>Wednesday, April 8</b>	ES4490 Thesis Final Evaluation	Faculty meeting room, 10:30 am
<b>Friday, April 10</b>	Reviewed thesis back to student	From K. Jordan
<b>Wednesday, April 22</b>	<b>Final copies of thesis due by high noon.</b> Please do not put your student number on these copies!	One revised complete copy to K. Jordan One revised complete copy + source data to your Supervisor(s)