

Geology/Geophysics 9580A/9680A Course Outline

Title: Graduate Seminar

Aim of the Course: This is a required course for all new M.Sc. and Ph.D. students in the Department of Earth Sciences. The objectives of the course are to develop: i) strong research skills, ii) a strong ability to present information orally, iii) familiarity with grant proposal writing, and iv) scientific learning skills through teamwork exercises.

Instructor: Dr. Patricia L. Corcoran; BGS 0164; Email: pcorcor@uwo.ca

Lectures: Tuesdays from 11:30-2:30, BGS 1053

T.A.: Anika Ballent; aballent@uwo.ca

Topics:

- 1) Evaluation of the Scientific Method, Ethics of Science, and the Use of Models
- 2) Effective Research Proposal Design
- 3) Effective Scientific Presentations and Teaching
- 4) Science Interviews
- 5) Teamwork Exercises with Special Topics in Earth Sciences

Grading:

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| 1) Written assignments for designing a formal research proposal | 40% |
| -the final research proposal will be graded by two faculty members, emeritus professors, post-doctoral fellows or research associates in the Department of Earth Sciences | |
| 2) Peer Review of research proposal | 10% |
| 3) Oral presentation and defense of formal research proposal | 20% |
| -this symposium will take place on December 4 | |
| 4) Teamwork presentations | 20% |
| 5) Participation | 10% |
| -this includes participation in class AND attendance at the weekly Earth Sciences Colloquium | |

Course Website: Students should check OWL (<http://owl.uwo.ca>) on a regular basis for news and updates. This is the primary method by which information will be disseminated to all students in the class. Students are responsible for checking OWL on a regular basis.

Policy on late assignments: All assignments are due on the date specified on the assignment. 10% will be deducted for every day late. If you have exceptional circumstances, please contact Dr. Corcoran prior to the due date.

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 is a serious academic offence. The UWO Senate Academic Handbook defines plagiarism as "The act of appropriating the literary composition of another, or parts or passages of his writings, or the ideas or language of the same, and passing them off as the product of one's own mind." Students must

write their assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using proper referencing such as citations. For more information see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Support Services: Learning-skills counsellors at the Student Development Centre (<http://www.sdc.uwo.ca>) are ready to help you improve your learning skills. They offer presentations on strategies for improving time management, multiple-choice exam preparation/writing, textbook reading, and more. Individual support is offered throughout the Fall/Winter terms in the drop-in Learning Help Centre, and year-round through individual counselling. Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help. Additional student-run support services are offered by the USC, <http://westernusc.ca/services>. The website for Registrarial Services is <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>.

Policy on Illness: If you are unable to meet a course requirement due to illness or other serious circumstances, you must provide valid medical or supporting documentation to the Academic Counselling Office of your home faculty as soon as possible. If you are a Science student, the Academic Counselling Office of the Faculty of Science is located in WSC 140, and can be contacted at 519-661-3040 or scibmsac@uwo.ca. Their website is http://www.uwo.ca/sci/undergrad/academic_counselling/index.html. A student requiring academic accommodation due to illness must use the Student Medical Certificate (https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical_document.pdf) when visiting an off-campus medical facility. For further information, please consult the university's medical illness policy at http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf.

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