

Geosciences Seminar GEOL 491

Syllabus
Spring 2012

Day / Time: Mondays, 4:00-5:00 PM
Location: Stevens Hall 134
Coordinating Professor: Dr. Kenneth Lepper
131 Steven Hall
701-231-6746
ken.lepper@ndsu.edu

Objective:

- The endeavor of science has little meaning if its outcomes cannot be effectively communicated to others. The objective of the seminar experience is to give you practice making professional research presentations in your selected field: Geology. This practice will sharpen your ability to communicate professionally and improve your chances of securing, performing, and retaining employment and/or advancing your academic career.

Dynamic schedule:

<i>Week</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Presenters</i>
i	1/09	No class meeting	
ii	1/16	No class meeting; University Holiday	
iii	1/23	Introduction; Choosing a topic; Overview of assignments	
iv	1/30	Structure of scientific communications and What is Peer-reviewed ** Topics due to Dr. Lepper **	
v	2/06	Citations, referencing and avoiding Plagiarism	
vi	2/13	T.B.D.	
vii	2/20	No class meeting; University Holiday	
viii	2/27	Poster Layout and Oral Presentation Guidance	
ix	3/05	1st yr. Student Poster Session – 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM	
x	3/12	Spring Break -- No Class Meeting	
xi	3/19	No class meeting	
xii	3/26	2 nd yr. Student Oral Presentations: <i>K. Biedelman; L. Folkers; L. Moxness</i>	
xiii	4/02	2 nd yr. Student Oral Presentations: <i>K. Forward; D. Slusher</i>	
xiv	4/09	No class meeting; University Holiday	
xv	4/16	2 nd yr. Student Oral Presentations: <i>N. Dotzenrod; S. Skurupey</i>	
xvi	4/23	No class meeting; NC GSA	
xvii	4/30	2 nd yr. Student Oral Presentations: <i>C. Fagerland; J. Hoeven</i>	

Blackboard:

- The course will use Blackboard as a means of disseminating information such as useful links and revisions to the schedule.

Course Requirements:

- ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY -- Absences will reflect negatively on your course grade. Two unexcused absences or three absences for any reason will result in a full letter grade reduction. On March 5th the class will require a 2-hour meeting (poster session from 4:00 to 6:00 PM). Also when student oral presentations begin we will need the full hour session, so please plan your Monday afternoons accordingly. Do not make plans that require you to leave before 5:00 PM.
- Each student will prepare a professional caliber presentation based on literature research. First year students will present in research poster format. Second year students will give an oral presentation.

Code of Academic Conduct:

- All work in this course must be completed in a manner consistent with NDSU University Senate Policy, Section 335: Code of Academic Responsibility and Conduct. <http://www.ndsu.nodak.edu/policy/335.htm>
- Plagiarism in either of the presentations or the supporting documents can result in an **F** for the course.

Grading / Evaluation:

- Topic selection assignment 15 pts.
- Citation and referencing assignment 15 pts.
- Participation assignment 20 pts.
- Professional scientific presentation (Poster or Talk) 50 pts.
- **Course Total 100 pts.**

Participation Assignment: Second year students will critique a sub set of the poster presentations. First year students will provide written summaries or responses to the oral presentations.

Americans with Disabilities Act:

- Any students with disabilities or other needs who may require special accommodations in this course are invited to share these concerns or requests in confidence with the coordinating professor as soon as possible.

Presentation Guidance:

1. The topic must be geological, scientific and **of compelling interest to you**. *DO NOT SELECT YOUR TOPIC BASED ON TELEVISION VIEWING*. In the past topics that have more than one hypothesis or clear interpretation have fared well for students. Topics with religious overtones, and societal or environmental impacts of geologic issues including hypothetical cataclysmic geologic events have not fared as well. Consult with the coordinating professor before selecting topics in the fields of economic/petroleum geology or environmental geology.
2. The topic must be one for which no credit has been given in other courses, nor can you present results or progress reports on undergraduate research projects.
3. The poster presentations should be 3 ft. wide by 4 ft long (page layout, not landscape) and should be printed as a single sheet. Large format printers and printing assistance are available in the IACC. The cost of printing is the responsibility of the student. The posters must include citations and a properly formatted Reference Cited section.
4. We will use the format specified by the journal "GEOLOGY" (refer to "External Links" in the Blackboard site for this course). A digital version of the poster must be submitted to the coordinating professor.
5. Oral presentations should be 20 to 25 minutes in length to allow for 5 to 10 minutes of questioning.
6. All oral presentations will be made using PowerPoint. You can also incorporate hand specimens, models, etc. -- but no mixed media presentations will be permitted (i.e.: no overheads, slides, or document camera items).
7. The posters and oral presentations must include a clear statement about the scientific question that is being addressed or the hypotheses being examined.
8. You are expected to use several sources in preparation for the presentations. **You must, however, use at least 3 relatively recent *peer-reviewed journal papers* dating from 2007 or later** (consult with faculty if you are uncertain about this requirement).
9. **You must clearly indicate in your presentations, including posters, how information from literature sources is being used (show citations on your PowerPoint slides and posters - also include a References Cited section).**
10. All presentations (posters and talks) will be accompanied by a one-page document. This document should contain a concise abstract of 250-500 words (include the word count on the bottom of your abstract), and properly formatted references as cited in your presentation. We will use the format specified by the journal "GEOLOGY" (refer to "External Links" in the Blackboard site for this course).
 - Abstracts for the poster session should be submitted as a single page PDF file to Dr. Lepper by 3:00 PM Wednesday, Feb. 29, 2012 so that an abstract volume can be prepared. No hardcopy is required for poster presenters.
 - Abstracts for the oral presentation are due at the beginning of the class period on the day of your talk. The presenting students will supply abstracts for each member of class, faculty, and guests (25 copies).