

# GEOL 491 Weekly Seminar Spring 2018

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Office Hours: Tuesday 2.00-4:00pm, Wednesday 10.00am-noon, or by appt.

## Course Format:

1. Attendance at 12 of the 13 the weekly Geoscience seminars.
2. Submission of an analysis sheet for each seminar you attend.
3. Submission of a 2-to-3-page (single-spaced), well written, reflective essay at the end of the semester in which you explore what you have personally learned about the field of geoscience through these seminars, what you have learned about how to most effectively communicate research to a mixed audience of geology professors, graduate students, and undergraduate majors, and how the seminars did or did not influence your career plans.

Required Textbook: None

This one-credit course provides you the opportunity to be exposed to the latest research in the broad field of Geoscience by attending the weekly seminar hosted by the Geoscience Department. You will observe a wide range of research topics and strategies described by the hosted speakers and you will also observe different examples of public presentations. An objective of the class is for you to identify effective (and perhaps not-so-effective) practices in public presentation.

When possible, I will send students enrolled in this class a pdf of one or more technical papers, usually written by the speaker, that are relevant to the presentation. I do not expect you to read and understand these papers in detail, but I strongly recommend that you spend about 30 minutes reading portions of such papers prior to the seminar. They will provide some background information and help you become familiar with key terminology, so that you are not completely blown away by a seminar on a topic with which you are unfamiliar.

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Share what they have learned regarding a new area or research topic that they were not previously aware of in the field of Geoscience
- Identify examples of effective and ineffective presentation media and speaking practices
- Listen attentively to a presentation and craft a relevant question that could be posed to the speaker regarding their specific presentation
- Participate willingly in the hosting arrangements necessary in support of a weekly seminar talk

Grading policy: Final grades will be assigned according to the following schedule. The instructor may also elect to curve the final grades in the students favor.

Final Grades will be computed as follows:

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| • Seminar analysis sheet (12 sheets, 10 points each)                | 70% |
| • Participation in hosting duties                                   | 15% |
| • Signup to meet with 2 guests (to be discussed)                    |     |
| • Lecture setup (refreshments and room)                             |     |
| • End of semester reflective essay (see item 3 at top of this page) | 15% |

Grade	Semester average	Grade	Semester average
A	over 93	C	between 73 and 77
A-	between 90 and 93	C-	between 70 and 73
B+	between 87 and 90	D+	between 67 and 70
B	between 83 and 87	D	between 63 and 67
B-	between 80 and 83	D-	between 60 and 63
C+	between 77 and 80	F	less than 60 (see note 1 below)

#### Notes:

1. No extra credit will be given.
2. No make-up exams, make-up quizzes, or make-up exercises will be given unless you provide a written military or university excuse. So plan to attend class.

Changes to Syllabus: The lecture schedule is tentative; adjustments may be necessary depending on travel and speaker scheduling. Adjustments to the required participation hosting duties may also be necessary. Students will be provided with an updated syllabus if significant changes are necessary.

#### Policies

##### 1. Participation

Students in this course must participate in the weekly Geoscience seminar held on Wednesdays at 4 pm in Lilly Fong Geoscience room 102. Additionally, it is expected that you participate during the semester in the hosting duties including possibly attending some lunches, meeting with some speakers, and setting up/cleaning up from the seminar.

##### 2. Attendance

Thirteen seminars are scheduled for this semester (not including the grad school information session on January 24). **My expectation is that you will attend 12 of these 13 seminars** and submit an analysis sheet for each of the 12 seminars you attend. You cannot submit an analysis sheet for a seminar that you did not personally attend.

**3. Religious Holidays** - Any student missing class quizzes, examinations, or any other class or lab work because of observance of religious holidays shall be given an opportunity during that semester to make up missed work. The make-up will apply to the religious holiday absence only. It shall be the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor within the first 14 calendar days of the course for fall and spring courses (excepting modular courses), or within the first 7 calendar days of the course for summer and modular courses, of his or her intention to participate in religious holidays which do not fall on state holidays or periods of class recess. For additional information, please visit: <http://catalog.unlv.edu/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=531>.

**4. Academic Misconduct** - Academic integrity is a legitimate concern for every member of the campus community; all share in upholding the fundamental values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility, and professionalism. By choosing to join the UNLV community, students accept the expectations of the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and are encouraged when faced with choices to always take the ethical path. Students enrolling at UNLV assume the obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with UNLV's function as an educational institution. An example of academic misconduct is plagiarism. Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of another, from the Internet or any source, without proper citation of the sources. See the Student Academic Misconduct Policy (approved December 9, 2005) located at: <https://www.unlv.edu/studentconduct/student-conduct>.

**5. Disability Resource Center (DRC)** - The UNLV Disability Resource Center (SSC-A 143, <http://drc.unlv.edu/>, 702-985-0866) provides resources for students with disabilities. If you feel that you have a disability, please make an appointment with a Disabilities Specialist at the DRC to discuss what options may be available to you.

If you are registered with the UNLV Disability Resource Center, bring your Academic Accommodation Plan from the DRC to the instructor during office hours so that we may work together to develop strategies for implementing the accommodations to

meet both your needs and the requirements of the course. Any information you provide is private and will be treated as such. To maintain the confidentiality of your request, please do not approach the instructor in front of others to discuss your accommodation needs.

**6. Incomplete Grades** - The grade of I – Incomplete – can be granted when a student has satisfactorily completed three-fourths of course work for that semester/session but for reason(s) beyond the student’s control, and acceptable to the instructor, cannot complete the last part of the course, and the instructor believes that the student can finish the course without repeating it. The incomplete work must be made up before the end of the following regular semester for undergraduate courses. Graduate students receiving “I” grades in 500-, 600-, or 700-level courses have up to one calendar year to complete the work, at the discretion of the instructor. If course requirements are not completed within the time indicated, a grade of F will be recorded and the GPA will be adjusted accordingly. Students who are fulfilling an Incomplete do not register for the course but make individual arrangements with the instructor who assigned the I grade.

**7. Writing Center** - One-on-one or small group assistance with writing is available free of charge to UNLV students at the Writing Center, located in CDC-3-301. Although walk-in consultations are sometimes available, students with appointments will receive priority assistance. Appointments may be made in person or by calling 895-3908. The student’s Rebel ID Card, a copy of the assignment (if possible), and two copies of any writing to be reviewed are requested for the consultation. More information can be found at: <http://writingcenter.unlv.edu/>

**8. Rebelmail** - By policy, faculty and staff should e-mail students’ Rebelmail accounts only. Rebelmail is UNLV’s official e-mail system for students. It is one of the primary ways students receive official university communication such as information about deadlines, major campus events, and announcements. All UNLV students receive a Rebelmail account after they have been admitted to the university. Students’ e-mail prefixes are listed on class rosters. The suffix is always @unlv.nevada.edu. Emailing within WebCampus is acceptable.

**9. Library Resources** - Students may consult with a librarian on research needs. Subject librarians for various classes can be found here: [https://www.library.unlv.edu/contact/librarians\\_by\\_subject](https://www.library.unlv.edu/contact/librarians_by_subject). UNLV Libraries provides resources to support students’ access to information. Discovery, access, and use of information are vital skills for academic work and for successful post-college life. Access library resources and ask questions at <https://www.library.unlv.edu/>.

**10. Official extracurricular activity** - All students who represent UNLV at any official extracurricular activity have the opportunity to make up an assignment. However, you must provide written notification to me at least 1 week prior to the missed class(es).

**11. Nondiscrimination** - The University of Nevada Las Vegas does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national or ethnic origin, gender, age, sexual orientation, disability, or veteran status.

**12. Administrative drops/Classroom conduct** - You are required to be familiar with university policies and procedures in the current UNLV Undergraduate Catalog. Importantly, we follow the policies on Cheating, Plagiarism, and Academic Dishonesty that are stated in the most recent UNLV Undergraduate Catalog. Any student that does not comply with these requirements and conducts themselves in a manner that is disruptive and interferes with the right of other students to learn or of the instructor to teach will be administratively dropped from the course.

**13. Recording Lectures** - Absolutely no electronic recording or posting of seminar talks or other materials will be allowed without my and the speaker’s prior approval.