



**Course Syllabus: Geoscience Seminar**  
**McCoy College of Science, Mathematics, & Engineering**  
**Fall 2020 GOES4001-101**

**Instructor Contact Information**

Instructor: Dr. Andrew Katumwehe  
Office: 307H Bolin Hall  
Lecture: M 10:00-10:50 AM RM 101  
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**Office hours**

Due to Covid-19 pandemic, please feel free to call in or use zoom for a one on one meeting but if you choose to come to office please have your face cover on and first send an email.

**Course Objectives**

- To refine student's understanding of concepts, principles, and theory in scientific investigations
- To develop the student's ability to identify key concepts relevant to their own undergraduate work
- To explain the role that models play in filling knowledge gaps
- To develop the student's theoretical understanding of the subject matter on which their thesis work is focused
- Increase proficiency at reading peer-reviewed technical articles
- Enhance verbal and written communication skills
- Sharpen critical thinking skills
- Become efficient evaluators of scientific research

**Course Format**

- Students will participate in class discussion to improve their understanding of theory, concepts, principles, and models in relation to their thesis
- Students will produce a brief presentation that identifies the key concept(s) involved in their research, the principles that support the concept(s), and the larger theory that is supported by the concept
- We will look at different papers and projects

**Course Assessment and Grading**

You will each be assigned presentation dates for two rounds of presentations. You need to select and read a technical paper, and then share the paper's

contents and your critical analysis as a 15-minute PowerPoint presentation for your class. During this course we will work on a research project and give a thorough analysis based on laboratory results and present your finding.

- Allow 11 minutes for your talk and 3 minutes for questions.

The presentation should be professional and follow the evaluation criteria outlined on D2L. These include:

- suitable topic
- simple backgrounds and text
- correct formatting
- appropriate information
- proper organization
- professional form
- An independent and original assessment

Rubric will be on D2L

Note: You may not submit a presentation or paper for a grade in this class that already has been (or will be) submitted for a grade in another course, unless you obtain the explicit written permission of me and the other instructor involved in advance.

### **Participation**

Each student will need to ask 3 thoughtful question for each series of presentations, for a total of 6 questions for the semester. The instructor will keep score.

**Table 1. Overall percentage value for course exams and assignments**

Assignments	%age
Presentation 1	15
Presentation 2	15
Group Presentation	20
Presentation 3	20
Attendance/participation	5
Presentation 4	25
Total	100

### **Grading Standards**

This class uses the following numerical equivalents for grades:

A = 100-90% | B = 89-80% | C = 79-70% | D = 69-60% | F = 59-0%.

### **Extra Credit:**

There will be no extra credit offered for this course. If you are struggling, try harder. If you are still struggling, come see me.

### Late Work:

This class has zero room in its schedule for late of anything. You will need to complete all assignments on time. Your time of presentation is not interchangeable.

### **Attendance**

Attendance will count towards your grade except for university excused absences. Absenteeism will be addressed on an individual basis, and the professor reserves the right to drop or fail students with poor attendance. However, any excuse (for absence or otherwise) is best when delivered ahead of the absence. Successful completion is a pathway to an estimable career path that generally weeds out those without commitment and courtesy. It reflects poor commitment to let other obligations and distractions impair your preparation towards a career; it is discourteous to not alert your professor to a delay or absence to any scheduled assembly. Unfortunately over sleeping is not an excusable absence.

### **Desire-to-Learn (D2L)**

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor. Zoom presentations might be done online so be familiar with zoom and D2L.

The SARS-Cov2 virus is a threat to the execution of this class. We will replicate conditions that have been useful to healthcare workers.

#### Rules:

- Stay home if you or anyone in your immediate dwelling is ill.
- You must pass a daily self-assessment whenever you engage in non-remote work – reporting the absence of fever or other symptoms.
- Wash hands for 20 seconds whenever possible. Use hand sanitizer at least once per hour.
- Maintain 6 feet distance when possible.
- Masks are to be worn whenever in close proximity or in closed spaces.
- Wipe equipment with disinfecting cleanser before exchanging users.
- Maintain a same sitting in the lecture hall

Information on the face covers can be found on: <https://msutexas.edu/return-to-campus/assets/files/msu-texas-facial-covering-requirement.pdf>

### COVID-19 ACCOMMODATIONS

Students may apply through; <https://msutexas.edu/student-life/disability/covid/student-concerns.php>

## **Student Handbook**

There is no reference book for this course, Refer to: [Student Handbook 2017-18](#)

### **Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures:**

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct.

### **Change of Schedule:**

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

### **Important Dates:**

Last Day to drop this course with a grade of "W" is 4pm, October 09, 2020 Drops after this date will receive grades of "F." Refer to academic calendar: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

### **Refund and Repayment Policy:**

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. HOWEVER, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exists in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

### **Services for Students With Disabilities:**

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

### **College Policies:**

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

**Smoking/Tobacco Policy:**

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by WATC. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

**Alcohol and Drug Policy:**

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

**Grade Appeal Process:**

Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [Undergraduate Catalog](#)

**Final Exam (Capstone)**

The capstone exam is an evaluation of learning retention in our program. It is a 100-question long multiple choice test, 50 of which cover concepts first introduced in GEOS 1134 Physical Geology, and the 5 questions each on additional coursework. You only answer questions for those courses you have completed. The results have no bearing on your grade and are solely used to evaluate one aspect of the Kimbell School of Geosciences.

## GEOS 4001-101 Course Schedule

<b>Week</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Presenter</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>8/24</b>	Course Introduction	<b>N/A</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>8/31</b>	Presentation Guidance and Example <b>Introduction to research</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>9/7</b>	Labor Day	<b>1</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>9/14</b>	Paper 1 presentation	<b>2</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>9/21</b>	Paper 1 Presentation	<b>3</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>9/28</b>	Group presentation	<b>4</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>10/12</b>	Project	<b>5</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>10/15</b>	Project 1 Presentation	<b>N/A</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>10/19</b>	Project 1 Presentation	<b>1</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>10/26</b>	Spring Break – No Class	<b>N/A</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>11/2</b>	Presentations	<b>2</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>11/9</b>	Presentations	<b>3</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>11/16</b>	Research presentation	<b>4</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>11/23</b>	Final Presentation for the Project 1	<b>5</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>11/30</b>	Final Presentation for the Project 1	<b>5</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>12/4</b>	<b>Capstone Exam</b>	<b>N/A</b>

### **Notice**

Changes in the course syllabus, format, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.