



Course Syllabus: Geoscience Seminar
McCoy College of Science, Mathematics, & Engineering
Spring 2024 GOES4001-101

Instructor Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Andrew Katumwehe
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Lecture: W 4:00–4:50 pm RM 117
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Course Objectives

- To refine student's understanding of concepts, principles, and theories 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 discussions to improve their understanding of the theory, concepts, principles, and models of research.
- Students will produce a brief presentation that identifies the key concept(s) involved in their research, the principles that support the idea (s), and the more significant theory 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, give a thorough analysis based on laboratory results, and present our findings.

- 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 questions 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	10
Presentation 2	10
Group Presentation	15
Presentation 3	20
Attendance/participation	30
Proposal drafts/Abstracts	15
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 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 individually, 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 a 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, 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.

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 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 a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

Important Dates:

The Last Day to drop this course with a grade of "W" is 4pm, March 25, 2024.

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 may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees, and room/board charges paid to MSU for the semester. However, the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans, and/or scholarships). As described

below, two formulas (federal and state) exist to determine the refund amount. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

Services for Students With Disabilities:

Per 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 apply for such assistance through Disability Support Services in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required 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](#)

Active Shooter

The safety and security of our campus are the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us must be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the information provided by the MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more information, visit [Safety / Emergency Procedures](#). Students are encouraged to watch the "Run. Hide. Fight" video, which may be electronically accessed via the University police department's webpage: ["Run. Hide. Fight."](#)

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building. Adult students may smoke outside and only in designated smoking areas at each location.

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 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 that prohibit 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 extended 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, but completion is mandatory and affects your grade.

GEOS 4001-101 Course Schedule

Week	Dates	Event	Presenter
	15- Jan	Labor Day	Instructor
1	17-Jan	Course Introduction	N/A
2	24-Jan	Presentation Guidance and Example Introduction to Research	N/A
3	31- Jan	Paper 1 presentation	1, 2, 3
4	7- Feb	Paper 1 Presentation	4,5,6
5	14-Feb	Paper 1 Presentation	7, 8,9
6	21-Feb	Group Project	Grp 1
7	28-Feb	Project 1 Presentation	Grp 1
8	6-March	Project 1 Presentation	Grp 1
9	8-17 March	Spring Break – No Class	N/A
10	27-March	Ind. Presentations	1, 2, 3, 4
11	28-31 March	Spring Break – No Class	N/A
12	3-April	Ind. Presentations	5, 6, 7, 8
13	10-April	Research presentation	1, 2, 3
14	17-April	Final Presentation Project 1	1, 2, 3, 4
15	24-April	Final Presentation Project 1	5, 6, 7, 8
16	01-May	Capstone Exam	N/A

Notice

Course syllabus, format, assignments, and schedule changes may be made at the instructor's discretion.