



Course Syllabus: Graduate Seminar GEOS 6001 -201 Spring 2019

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Jonathan D. Price

Office: Bolin 102

Office hours: M 9-11a, 3-4p | W 9-11a | Th 8-10a | F 10-11a, 1-3p | by apt.

Office phone: (940) 397-4288

E-mail: jonathan.price@mwsu.edu

Course Description

With completion of your Master of Science degree, you are likely to be engaged in pursuits where you may be the sole authoritative voice of scientific evaluation; you will be the wizard in a room of managers, moneymen and marketers. And you will also be the rare vessel of knowledge and understanding about earth materials and processes to a greater community largely ignorant of such things. In some cases, you will be the defender of your insights to a body of experts. Very few of us are predisposed to serve these roles; this seminar course will engender the skills necessary and typical for those who hold an M.S. in Geoscience.

Additionally, when you complete your Master of Science degree, you will most likely seek employment or further educational opportunities. You will compete with graduates from a number of other excellent programs in earth science. It is my sincere hope that you are not merely competitive, but the clearly superior candidate in these evaluative processes. This seminar is preparation towards that goal.

We meet for an hour each week, but I expect you to devote significant time to course preparation. *This is a graduate course on geoscience that happens to carry one hour of credit* - Paraphrasing Dr. O.T. Hayward, a professor who once attempted instill in me the aforementioned skills.

Graduate seminar should be a chance for

- Interactions and information exchange amongst the academically active grad cohort
- Broad dissemination of general and scientific information
- Honing critical thinking and communication skills
- Exploration of geologic topics

Our immediate objectives

- Enhance expository and reflective communication
- Strengthen critical thinking

- Explore new ideas
- Heighten academic, professional and interpersonal skills
- Develop a robust broad understanding of geoscience
- Grow as scientists

Student Handbook

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Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given).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. As chair, I reserve the right to dismiss you from the program if you engage in academic dishonesty.

[Student Handbook 2017-18](#)

Plagiarism Policy

Plagiarism is the use of someone else's thoughts, words, ideas, or lines of argument in your own work without appropriate documentation (a parenthetical citation at the end and a listing in "Works Cited")-regardless of its use in a quote, paraphrase, or summary. It is a theft of intellectual property and will not be tolerated, whether intentional or not.

Grading

Table 1: Points allocated to each assignment

Components	Points
Participation and engagement	45
Written assignments	20
Group project	10
Individual presentation	5
Resume/CV	5
Research fest	5
Reflection on scientific and professional ethics	5
Other evaluation	5

Table 2: Total points for final grade.

Grade	Percentage
A	>90%
B	80-90%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	<60%

Evaluation

I will provide feedback both formally and informally. Firstly, I will be evaluating your performance on the basis of quality presentation, participation and engagement in the seminar. I may call on other evaluation methods as needed, including (but not limited to) quizzes, worksheets, exercises, and extensive face-to-face questioning over beverages of your choosing. In all cases I will be looking for your genuine growth as we progress; you need not try to outperform your classmates so much as outperform your previous self. Progress people! We are in search of progress.

Colloquium Participation & Writing Assignments

To grow as a student and as a professional, you should attend presentations by other knowledgeable authorities as they arise.

The department offers a colloquium with typically three speakers per semester. You need to definitely attend one of these and three other acceptable presentations.

Acceptable presentations include:

- Other sessions of our Colloquium
- NTGS or other geosociety luncheons
- Conference presentations (GSA, AAPG)
- Short courses

I am requiring **a written summary within a week** for each attended presentation. The summary should include the title of the presentation, the speaker's name and affiliation, a short synopsis of the presentation, a few sentences on how the presentation related to your prior understanding of the topic, and a few sentences on your personal impressions of the presentation (style, execution, etc...). Each submission should be a third (or better) draft, exceptionally coherent, and free of spelling and grammatical errors.

Participation

Seminar classes rely on interaction and discussion. You will need to be actively involved in each session to receive full credit for participation.

Group project

We will complete one group project fairly early in the semester. Group work has its challenges, and it is my hope is that we learn something from each other in the experience. However, we will keep short and to the point.

Individual Presentation

You will be asked to give a short presentation towards the end of the semester. These may be either on your thesis research or a topic of interest.

Resume/C.V.

Early in the semester, I will have you construct or modify your resume. You will be asked to honor a list of guidelines. This will be a graded assignment.

Research Fest

Another important individual assignment will require you to produce an annotated bibliography on a randomly assigned topic. You will be asked to acquire a small number of key references and summarize the useful attributes of each.

Reflections on Ethics

Your professor would like to believe that ethical behavior is second nature to everyone. Although it is likely true for the members of this course, experience suggests that exposure to ethical guidelines is useful. Another important individual assignment will ask you to evaluate ethical behavior in the science and profession of geology.

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.

Attendance

This class is targeted at graduate students. At this point, you undoubtedly realize the importance of interactions with your professor and colleagues in the classroom and lab settings. You need to be both present and fully engaged in each meeting. In the rare case you are missing class, you should contact the professor and the other members of the class to inform us of your absence.

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.

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](#).

Notice

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

Course Schedule

We meet each Thursday at 10AM, except during spring and Easter breaks. We will also not meet March 28 (GSA section week).

Important due dates and other requirements will be imparted as the semester progresses.