



Course Syllabus: Seminar
Kimbell School of Geosciences
GEOS 400I Section 20I
Spring 2025

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Jonathan D. Price (He/Him)
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Course Description

Seminar is an opportunity to directly apply your accumulated knowledge by applying critical thought to information in your field of study. The course also emphasizes presentation

- Increase proficiency at reading peer-reviewed technical articles
- Enhance verbal and written communication skills
- Sharpen critical thinking skills
- Become efficient evaluators of scientific research

Instructional Materials

Access to internet and scientist-authored written articles (research papers).
Other directed readings and exercises on or through D2L.

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook](#) for all of the relevant guidelines and procedures.

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Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given).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.

Plagiarism

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")-whether you use that material in a quote, paraphrase, or summary. It is a theft of intellectual property and will not be tolerated, whether intentional or not.
Plagiarism may result in an F for the class.

Artificial Intelligence

Chatbots (like ChatGPT) have recently grown in sophistication and accessibility. They can be useful tools to assist in drafting out writing or providing imaging, but they should be an assistance, not a substitute for your thought.

Earth Science is a beautifully diverse field; you need to find your own voice. Any creative input in this class is an opportunity to test and refine that; avoid shortchanging yourself the feedback you deserve.

Finally, in all academic work, ideas and contributions from others must be acknowledged. Using an AI-content generator to complete coursework without proper attribution or authorization is a form of academic dishonesty. For this class, use of AI-content with appropriate citations is permitted. Of course, getting proper citations from AI can be difficult.

Price's aphorism: *One shouldn't use AI without first engaging "I."*

Grading

Table 1: Points allocated to each class segment

| Assignments | Points |
|---------------------------|--------|
| Presentations | 50% |
| Summaries and assignments | 30% |
| Participation | 20% |

Table 2: Total points for final grade.

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

Presentations

You will be assigned presentation dates. For each, you need to select and read a technical paper, and then share the paper's contents and your analysis as an 11 minute PowerPoint presentation for your class.

- Each student will give two presentations during the semester.
- Presentations will each be 11 to 13 minutes long.

Summaries

You will need to complete a summary of each presentation, except for your own. These should be 200-250 words, double spaced, and clearly written, free of spelling and grammatical errors.

Those who are completing this portion online will find a videos of the presentations.

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.

Assignment Submission

Completed work may be remitted to D2L as directed.

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

For presenters:

- By the week prior: Dr. Price needs to approve your article.
- After constructing your slides, compress and trim the pictures to reduce file size.

"Compress Pictures" is under "Picture Tools/Adjust"

[+ Show All](#)

Here's how to find it:

1. Click a picture.
2. Under Picture Tools > Click Format > in the Adjust group > click Compress Pictures.

Look for this icon:



- Upload your slide set to D2L by **midnight** the day before your presentation.
- Day of: Present your findings

Everyone

- Day of: Submit summary of previous session through D2L

Additional assignments will be issued during the semester. This will include submission of a working resume. The specific requirements will be addressed at the time of their distribution.

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.

Late Work

NO! Not in this class. We are on a tight, once-a-week schedule. Make every effort to keep up in this class.

Make Up Work/Tests

I will only permit make-up opportunities for excused absences.

Important Dates

See academic calendar site: <https://msutexas.edu/registrar/calendars.php>

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.

Learning environment

Dr. Price is committed to providing an equitable and inclusive forum for learning and endeavors to keep this class a safe open, and supporting space for all students. He is available and willing to address your issues and concerns. He also wants you to be aware of the following supporting structures that assist in this environment.

Student Engagement Center: cultivates "a sense of belonging for all students at MSU Texas by facilitating student access to critical resources and opportunities, supporting student success and advocating for constant improvement in the way we meet students' needs across our campus." <https://msutexas.edu/student-life/mosaic/index.php>

Policies for general student complaints are available at <https://msutexas.edu/student-life/dean/general.php>. General student complaints should start with the informal process form https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?MSUTexas&layout_id=4

Sexual misconduct is handled by the Title IX Coordinator, and misconduct information and reporting is [https://msutexas.edu/human-resources/policy/4-general-university-policies/4.161-A-Title IX Sexual Misconduct.asp](https://msutexas.edu/human-resources/policy/4-general-university-policies/4.161-A-Title-IX-Sexual-Misconduct.asp)

Anonymous complaints can be made through EthicsPoint:
<https://secure.ethicspoint.com/domain/media/en/gui/45483/index.html>

Attendance

We're on a once-a-week schedule. Let me know well ahead of time of any known upcoming absences. But emergencies and illness are excused – keep me informed.

Weather

In case of weather that affects class meetings, check in with D2L as soon as you are able. We'll make adjustments as needed.

Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular 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.

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

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

Grade Appeal Process

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

Notice

Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor. Anticipate changes and frequently check D2L for updates.

Schedule

| Geoscience Seminar (GEOS 4001) - Spring 2025 | | | | | |
|---|-------------|--------------------------|------------------|---|---|
| W | Date | Event | Presenter | | |
| 1 | 27-Jan | Introduction | Instructor | | |
| 2 | 3-Feb | Scientific dissemination | Instructor | | |
| 3 | 10-Feb | Example presentation | Instructor | | |
| 4 | 17-Feb | Presentations | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 5 | 24-Feb | Presentations | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 6 | 3-Mar | Feedback | Instructor | | |
| 5 | 10-Mar | Spring Break | | | |
| 7 | 17-Mar | Big concept 1 | Class | | |
| 8 | 24-Mar | Resumania | Class | | |
| 9 | 31-Mar | Ethics and the Earth | Class | | |
| 10 | 7-Apr | Human vs. Machine | Class | | |
| 11 | 14-Apr | Presentations | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 12 | 17-Apr | Presentations | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 13 | 21-Apr | Feedback/Big concept 2 | Class | | |
| 14 | 28-Apr | 3 minute concept | Class | | |
| 15 | 5-May | Trivia competition | Class | | |
| | 12-May | Complete capstone | Class | | |