



**Course Syllabus: Seminar**  
**Kimbell School of Geosciences**  
GEOS 400I Section 20I  
Spring 2023

**Contact Information**

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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

Because of scheduling conflicts, specific participants will complete portions of this class through D2L.

**Instructional Materials**

Access to internet and scientist-authored written articles (research papers).

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Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given).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

## Grading

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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 or email 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.
- By 10 AM on the day before: you need to submit your PowerPoint slides to Dr. Price
- 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. Miss a deadline and lose the grade.

### **Make Up Work/Tests**

I will only permit make-up opportunities for excused absences. Excused absences require the instructor's express written consent.

### **Important Dates**

Last day for term schedule changes: January 20

Deadline to file for graduation: February 20

Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" March 27

### **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 an open, supporting, and safe 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.

To help achieve the vision of "STEM leadership--Diverse scholarship," the McCoy College of Science, Mathematics, and Engineering (MCOSME) students benefit from the numerous offices and student services available on the MSU campus. Links to resources and information are here:

[https://msutexas.edu/academics/scienceandmath/student\\_resources.php](https://msutexas.edu/academics/scienceandmath/student_resources.php).

### **Attendance**

We're on a once-a-week schedule. Unexcused absences will reduce your grade by 5% each. An excused absence requires the express written consent of the instructor.

### **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](#).

### **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. We are still adapting to the pandemic – anticipate changes and frequently check D2L for updates.

## Schedule

<b>Geoscience Seminar (GEOS 4001) - Spring 2023</b>					
<b>W</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Presenter</b>		
1	23-Jan	Introduction	Instructor		
2	30-Jan	Example presentations	Instructor		
3	13-Feb	Presentations	1	2	
4	20-Feb	Presentations	3	4	5
5	27-Feb	Presentations	6	7	8
6	6-Mar	Feedback	Instructor		
5	13-Mar	Spring Break			
7	20-Mar	Geogames	Class		
8	27-Mar	Big concept discussion 1	Class		
9	27-Mar	Resumania	Class		
10	29-Mar	Presentations	1	2	
11	3-Apr	Presentations	3	4	3
12	10-Apr	Presentations	6	7	8
13	17-Apr	Big concept discussion 2	Class		
14	24-Apr	Science quizbowl	Class		
15	1-May	Final (capstone)	Class		