

**SYLLABUS: GLY 6931 Seminar**  
**University of Florida, Department of Geological Sciences**

**Semester:** Spring 2021

**Credits:** 1

**Meeting Location:** Online Synchronous via Zoom

**Meeting Time:** Th: 3:30 – 4:30, unless otherwise specified

**INSTRUCTOR**

Instructor: Dr. Mark Brenner  
Office: 203 Williamson Hall  
Office hours: By appointment  
Phone: 352-392-7226  
e-mail: [brenner@ufl.edu](mailto:brenner@ufl.edu)

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is designed to expose students to a broad spectrum of topics in Earth, Ocean, Atmosphere and Planetary Sciences. Seminar speakers will talk about their recent research achievements and other related topics.

**Course Objectives:** It is the goal of this course that students will:

- Learn about cutting edge research in Earth, Ocean, Atmosphere and Planetary Sciences.
- Briefly convey the primary “take-home” messages from the lectures, in written form

**COURSE MATERIALS**

There are no specified materials for this course, though some speakers may choose to make selected articles available

**ASSESSMENTS AND GRADING**

The grade will be based on submission of 12 brief seminar reports during the semester. Requirements for seminar summaries are outlined below:

- 1) After each Department seminar, write a **short (1/2 page, single-spaced)** report, listing and briefly discussing the most important points of the presentation. **Twelve (12) reports are due during the semester.** A list of speakers is posted on the Geological Sciences website and titles will be posted as they are received.
- 2) <http://geology.ufl.edu/seminarseries/>
- 3) Most seminars will be hosted by Geological Sciences, but now and then we may designate a seminar hosted by another department or center (e.g. Biology, Water Institute, Climate Institute) as our official seminar for the week. The same reporting guidelines apply.

- 4) E-mail the report (**as a Word file**) to me at [brenner@ufl.edu](mailto:brenner@ufl.edu) before the following week's seminar. Include your name and the speaker's name in the subject line containing your report. Please do the same for the file name, e.g. Jones (Smith seminar).docx.
- 5) If you cannot join a seminar, contact me to arrange a make-up or substitution. You can substitute another campus seminar if you arrange to do so ahead of time, and if you identify interesting seminars in other units, by all means, attend them. But please do your best to attend GLY seminars, as we want to show speakers the courtesy of our presence. Please submit reports in a timely fashion.

*For further information on UF's Grading Policy, consult:*

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

## COURSE AND UNIVERSITY POLICIES

### **Attendance and Absence**

Students are expected to complete all requirements (assignments, problem sets, discussions, and quizzes) on the specified dates and will not be granted an alternate due date unless they have an acceptable reason (e.g. medical emergency, observance of religious holidays, military obligation) or pre-arranged consent of the instructor. These requests must be timely and accompanied by all necessary written documentation.

'In-class activities' must be turned in by the end of each class period. They can be turned in only up to 1 week after the class they are due but will receive half credit. This does not apply to the online course, for which there will be no late work accepted.

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found in the online catalog at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

### **Classroom policy**

Students should bring to each class meeting a laptop or similar device for use in taking notes, completing in-class activities, and accessing the internet. However, use of mobile devices and computers during class for purposes other than viewing readings or conducting sanctioned research is not allowed. Cell phones must be put on "vibrate" during class. Students who receive or make calls or text messages or engage in other disruptive behavior during class will be asked to leave. Students should also bring pen/pencil and paper to each class.

### **Academic Honesty Policy**

Students must conform to UF's academic honesty policy regarding plagiarism and other forms of cheating. This means that on all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."

The university specifically prohibits cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation, bribery, conspiracy, and fabrication. For more information about the definition of these terms and other aspects of the Honesty Guidelines, see <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student---conduct---honor---code/>. All students found to have cheated, plagiarized, or otherwise violated

the Honor Code in any assignment for this course will be prosecuted to the full extent of the university honor policy, including judicial action and the sanctions listed in paragraph XI of the Student Conduct Code. For serious violations, you will fail this course.

### **Software Use**

All faculty, staff, and students of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.

### **Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

Please do not hesitate to ask for accommodation for a documented disability. Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drp/>). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student, who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation. Please ask the instructor if you would like any assistance in this process. Please provide this information to your instructor within the first two weeks of the semester.

### **Instructor Evaluation**

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

### **Drop/Add/Withdrawal**

A student can drop/add during the drop add period with no penalty. After drop/add, a student who drops will receive a W until the date listed in the academic calendar. After that date, the student may be assigned an "E" (fail). Note: it is the responsibility of the STUDENT to withdraw from a course, not the instructor. Failure to participate/complete the class is NOT a drop.

### **Additional Resources**

Students facing difficulties completing the course or who are in need of counseling or urgent help may contact the Counseling and Wellness Center:

<http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>, 392-1575; or the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies. Other Resources available on-campus for students include:

- a. Student Mental Health, Student Health Care Center, 392-1171, personal counseling;
- b. Interpersonal Violence Counseling, Student Health Care Center, 392-1161
- c. Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601, career development assistance and counseling.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

Seminar speakers, their affiliations, and their seminar titles can be found on the UF Geological Sciences website (<http://geology.ufl.edu/seminarseries/>) and students will receive reminders about each seminar.