

GEOLOGICAL SCIENCES SEMINAR

GLY4930-SECTION 1257; 1-CREDIT, SPRING 2020

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Matthew Smith

Office number: Williamson Hall, Room 269

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phone number: (352) 392-2106

OFFICE HOURS: Physical and Virtual Office hours (Wm269): Tuesday and Thursday 9-11, Wednesday 1:45-3:15pm. Additionally, *students can contact the instructor by e-mail to schedule an appt. outside of the regularly schedule office hours.*

COURSE WEBSITE: <http://elearning.ufl.edu>

COURSE COMMUNICATIONS: For any class-related questions, students should use the **Course Questions Discussion Forum**. This will benefit all students that might have similar questions. The instructor will regularly answer all questions and participate in this forum. Students should check if the question they have has already been answered in the forum before posting. *Private questions should be sent to the instructor through the course management system, or to instructors .ufl e-mail address (this would include questions about grades, late work, etc.).* Emails will be responded to within 24 hours except on weekends when it may take a little longer.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS: None (only high speed internet access for video viewing)

MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES FEES: There are no material and supply fees for this course.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES: None.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

In this course students are assigned a weekly geoscience research or policy related seminar to view and report on. Reporting consists of participating in a weekly discussion forum and submitting a short (1-2 page) writeup of the seminar (specific response prompts provided). Seminar topics are chosen and organized into topical themes by the course instructor based on student input solicited at the beginning of the course.

GENERAL EDUCATION: This course does not fulfill any general education requirements.

PREREQUISITE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS: Students should have completed 3 courses in the geological sciences (GLY, OCE, ESC prefixes). Additional GLY coursework is of benefit but not essential, so ideally this course should be taken in a student's final year.

COURSE GOALS AND/OR OBJECTIVES: The objectives of this course are to expose students to a diversity of geoscience related topics and research and engage students in discussing and analyzing the research and presentation effectiveness.

Course Policies:

ATTENDANCE POLICY: This is a fully online course without any specific required synchronous activities requiring attendance. All assignments are listed in the course schedule, and specific due dates can be found in the calendar. As this is an online course, students must plan to have regular internet access and time to explore the resources available on the various ideas and topics that we will be covering.

REQUIREMENTS: Students are expected to:

- Complete all assignments in a timely fashion.
- Actively participate in all module discussions and peer review activities specified in each module (discussions take different forms in different modules).
- Check the course announcements and class e-mail at least three times a week.

EXAM DATES/POLICY: There are no exams in this course

ASSIGNMENT POLICY: Assignment due dates are specified on the course calendar, and timely submission is expected. Assignments must be submitted to Canvas via the assignment page and any instructions detailed therein.

DISCUSSION POLICY: Students are expected to adhere to professional etiquette/netiquette standards (see *UF Policies* below) in all posts and to engage in CONSTRUCTIVE dialogue. Posts are expected to be thoughtful, detailed responses (i.e., "yes," "no," "I agree," or "I disagree" answer is not sufficient). **Timeliness is critical** and discussion due dates should be strongly adhered to. Please check the course Calendar for the specific due dates.

LATE WORK AND MAKE-UP POLICY: Assignments may be submitted up to one week late with a penalty of 5% of the score per day late (or fraction thereof). Discussion posts more than one day late may not be accepted (penalty for late submission is integrated into the rubric. A note may be required to make-up any missed work overdue by more than one week.

Requirements for class attendance, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

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

COURSE TECHNOLOGY: Access to and on-going use of a computer is required for all students. Competency in the basic use of a computer is required. Course work will require use of a computer and a broadband connection to the Internet. In addition, students are required to have speakers and a webcam to take the proctored exams. For additional information on UF College of Liberal Arts and Sciences policy regarding computer requirements you can visit: <http://it.clas.ufl.edu/policies/student-computer-requirement/>

For technology related issues the UF computing help desk can be reached at:

<http://helpdesk.ufl.edu>

- (352) 392-HELP - select option 2

ONLINE COURSE 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 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 ufl.bluera.com/ufl/. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/.

UF POLICIES:

UNIVERSITY POLICY ON ACCOMMODATING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

(REQUIRED): Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/> . It is important for

students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

UNIVERSITY POLICY ON ACADEMIC CONDUCT: UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. 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 Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

CLASS DEMEANOR OR NETIQUETTE: All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, threaded discussions and chats. UF netiquette guidelines can be found at <http://teach.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/NetiquetteGuideforOnlineCourses.pdf>

GETTING HELP:

For issues with technical difficulties for Canvas, please contact the UF Help Desk at:

- <http://helpdesk.ufl.edu>
- (352) 392-HELP (4357)
- Walk-in: HUB 132

Any requests for make-ups due to technical issues MUST be accompanied by the ticket number received from the Help Desk when the problem was reported to them. The ticket number will document the time and date of the problem. You MUST e-mail your instructor within 24 hours of the technical difficulty if you wish to request a make-up.

Other resources are available at <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/getting-help> for:

- Counseling and Wellness resources

- Disability resources
- Resources for handling student concerns and complaints
- Library Help Desk support

Should you have any complaints with your experience in this course please visit <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaints> to submit a complaint.

GRADING POLICIES:

Your course grade based on the following categories (percentage breakdown included)

- Seminar Writeups: 80%
- Discussions: 20%

GRADING SCALE: Grading Scale (& GPA equivalent):

Grade	%	Grade Points		Grade	%	Grade Points
A	≥93	4.0		C	73 – 76	2.0
A-	90 – 92	3.67		C-	70 – 73	1.67
B+	87 – 89	3.33		D+	64 – 66	1.33
B	83 – 86	3.0		D	60 – 63	1.0
B-	80 – 83	2.67		D-	57 – 59	0.67
C+	77 – 79	2.33		E	< 56	0

Note: A grade of C- is not a qualifying grade for major, minor, Gen Ed, or College Basic distribution credit. For further information on UF's Grading Policy, see: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

COURSE SCHEDULE:

CRITICAL DATES:

Deadlines for all deliverables (seminar write ups and discussions) can be found on the Canvas course schedule.

Disclaimer: This syllabus represents my current plans and objectives. As we go through the semester, those plans may need to change to enhance the class learning opportunity. Such changes, communicated clearly, are not unusual and should be expected.