

GEOS 300 Writing in the Geosciences

Spring 2018

Prof. Jim Mills

Office: Julian 214 Phone: 658-4669 E-mail: jmills@depauw.edu

Office Hours: 10:30-11:30 MWF (or by appointment)

Class Meeting Time: 7:00-8:30 pm JSMC 223

Attendance:

Regular attendance is expected for all class periods. Any class you miss must be excused (a note from the Health Center, Athletic Coach, etc. must be given to me). If you miss more than three classes (excused or unexcused) I reserve the right to drop or fail you in the course regardless of your performance on assignments.

Textbooks:

Recommended:

Communicating Rocks: Writing, Speaking and Thinking About Geology, Copeland, Peter, 2012, Pearson Education Group, 149 p., ISBN 978-0-321-68967-2 (On Reserve in the Prevo Science Library)

A Pocket Style Manual, 6th edition, Hacker, D. and Sommers, N., 2012, Bedford/St. Martins Publishers, 300 p., ISBN 978-0-312-54254-2
(or any recent edition of this book)

Course Goals:

The fundamental goal of this course is to enhance your writing skills as a geoscientist. Clear, informative, accurate, and concise writing is hard work and will require much practice (far more than you will receive in this course!). We will address the topics of audience, report style and format, technical language, citations, and referencing through the use of multiple writing assignments.

Assignments:

Papers – 70%

Participation – 20%

Peer-editing – 10%

Field Projects:

To enhance your ability to write scientifically, you will undertake two field projects in order to collect data that will provide the basis for your writing in the appropriate sections of the course.

Project One: *Shades State Park (A Saturday trip if possible)*

Project Two: *Old Campus Farm House (Jones House)*

Class Projects:

Writing exercises will be divided into four areas:

- 1) *Academic Writing*
- 2) *Technical or Industry Writing*
- 3) *Writing for the Public*
- 4) *Grant Writing – An Introduction*

Writing Assistance Outside of Class:

W-Center (Writing Center):

Monday-Thursday 1:00-5:00 p.m. Daytime

Friday 1:00-5:00 p.m. Daytime

Sunday-Thursday 7:00-10:00 p.m. Evenings

The Center is located in the Academic Resource Center on the first floor of Asbury Hall (Room 115). Call for an appointment: (765) 658-4039 or stop by the ARC during office hours (8 am – 5 pm M-F)

Academic Honesty:

Any act that places a student in unfair advantage with respect to the rest of the class will be treated according to the University procedures outlined in the Student Handbook.

Because this is a 300-level writing course, attention to issues of plagiarism will be especially acute. If you aren't sure what you are writing is considered plagiarism, review a style guide, find a reference on plagiarism, or just ask.

ADA Accommodations:

It is the policy and practice of DePauw University to provide reasonable accommodations for students with properly documented disabilities. Written notification from Student Disability Services is required. If you are eligible to receive an accommodation and would like to request it for this course, please contact Student Disability Services. Allow one-week advance notice to ensure enough time for reasonable accommodations to be made. Otherwise, it is not guaranteed that the accommodation can be provided on a timely basis. Accommodations are not retroactive. Students who have questions about Student Disability Services or who have, or think they may have, a disability (psychiatric, attentional, learning, vision, hearing, physical, medical, etc.) are invited to contact Student Disability Services for a confidential discussion in Union Building Suite 200 or by phone at 658-6267.

Meggan Herrald Johnston
Director of Student Disability Services

Student Academic Life
Union Building Suite 200
Phone: 765-658-6267
FAX: 765-658-4021 (confidential)

<p style="text-align: center;">Jim Mills Dept. of Geosciences Spring, 2018</p>		
Office: JSC 214	Phone: x4669	E-mail: jmills@depauw.edu

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:00-9:00					
9:00-10:00	Geos 320 9:10-10:10		Geos 320 9:10-10:10		Geos 320 9:10-10:10
10:00-11:00	Office Hour 10:30-11:30		Office Hour 10:30-11:30		Office Hour 10:30-11:30
11:00-12:00					
12:00-1:00		Geos 320 Lab			
1:00-2:00	Geos 105 1:40-2:40	12:40-3:30	Geos 105 1:40-2:40		Geos 105 1:40-2:40
2:00-3:00					
3:00-4:00					
4:00 - 5:00	Faculty				
5:00 - 6:00	Meeting				
6:00 – 7:00					
7:00 – 8:00		Geos 300 7:00-8:30			
8:00 – 9:00					

GEOS 105 = Earthquakes and Volcanoes, JSC 223

GEOS 300 = Writing in the Geosciences, JSC 223

GEOS 320 = Petrology, JSC 226

Weekly Syllabus

Jan. 30th Introduction, In-class writing

SECTION ONE – The Research Paper

Feb. 6th The Research Paper: Format, The Introduction, References

13th The Research Paper: Methodology, Results, Discussion, Conclusion

20th The Research Paper: The Abstract

27th The Research Paper: Peer Review

SECTION TWO – The Technical Report

March 6th Technical Reports: Format

13th Technical Reports: The Body

20th Technical Reports: The Executive Summary

27th SPRING BREAK

April 3rd Technical Reports: Peer Review

SECTION THREE – Writing for the Public

10th Writing for the Public: Overview

17th Writing for the Public: In class writing

24th Writing for the Public: Peer Review

SECTION FOUR – Writing a Grant Proposal

May 1st Writing a Grant Proposal

8th Writing a Grant Proposal

Last Day of Class: Thursday, May 10th

Final Exam Date: Monday, May 14th, 6:00 – 9:00 pm