

GEOL 450/UNIV390A Senior Seminar (S Course)

Fall Term, 2007

Seminar Organizer: Fred Soster

Seminar Goals

The Geoscience Senior Seminar is a “capstone” course that is designed to provide you with the opportunity to integrate many of the skills that you have learned here at DePauw, both in and out of class. This seminar will help prepare you for life after DePauw, whether it involves employment or post-graduate education. You will have the opportunity to research graduate schools and employment opportunities, to explore in depth two areas of the geosciences that you are particularly interested in, to read the primary literature, to engage in intellectual discussions with your peers, and to make presentations to your peers and to the Department. Through these activities, you will:

1. develop graduate school/job search skills and resources.
2. develop oral communication skills.
3. critically read the scientific literature.
4. sharpen your critical thinking skills.
5. work cooperatively on a project.
6. prepare power point and poster presentations.

Seminar Organization

We will meet each week for two hours to work on assignments and to engage in discussions. There will be five assignments:

- Assignment #1. Resume.
- Assignment #2. Graduate school search and application.
- Assignment #3. Job search and application.
- Assignment #4. Thematic discussions.
- Assignment #5. Individual topic with poster presentation to the Department.

Assignments #1-3 are meant to prepare you for your graduate school or job searches. Assignment #4 is meant to give you broad exposure to the geosciences primary literature. For this assignment, we will break into 5 groups (4 groups of

two and 1 group of three). Each group will choose a topic in the geosciences and select 2 papers (three papers if the papers are relatively short) from the primary literature that the entire class will read. During seminar meetings, we will discuss the papers. The discussion will begin with a 10-15 minute presentation by the students, followed by questions and general discussion. The student presenters will lead the discussion by posing a series of questions that the rest of the class will respond to.

Grading

Your grade will be based on your seminar participation (discussion) and the five assignments. Grades will be weighted as follows:

Resume	5%
Graduate School Search/Application	10%
Job Search/Application	15%
Assignment #4	20%
Poster Presentation	30%
Discussion	20%

A = 90-100% B= 80-89% C = 70-79% D = 60-69% F = < 60%

To receive S certification, you must receive a course grade of C- or better.

Your discussion grade throughout the seminar will be based on the following criteria:

- A** (90-100) You initiated or contributed to a discussion that led to a deeper or broader understanding of the subject matter; you raised new issues or extended the discussion into related areas; you were able to clearly defend your position on an issue with appropriate evidence and supporting argument; you challenged someone else's position, belief, or assertion, with contrary evidence or argument.
- B** (80-89) You participated by answering or asking questions of a factual nature; your comments showed that you completed the reading/writing assignment, that you followed the general trend of the discussion, and that you understood the topic/issue being discussed.

- C** (70-79) You were in class and seemed interested in the discussion. You participated in the discussion just enough to show that you read the appropriate material and completed the assignment.
- D** (60-69) You showed up for class, but you really didn't say much of anything. You were only marginally engaged in the discussion and consequently, it was hard to assess your understanding of the material.
- F** (0) You weren't in class, either physically or mentally.

Seminar Schedule

<u>Week</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>
1	8/23	Introduction; Assignment #1.
2	8/30	Discussion about resumé's.
3	9/6	Assignment #2.
4	9/13	Student PowerPoint presentations for Assignment #2.
5	9/20	Assignment #3.
6	9/27	Student PowerPoint presentations for Assignment #3.
7	10/4	Discussion.
8	10/11	Discussion.
	10/18	Fall Break
9	10/25	Discussion.
10	11/1	Discussion.
11	11/8	Discussion.
12	11/15	Assignment #5.
	11/22	Thanksgiving Recess.
13	11/29	Work on posters.
14	12/6	Poster Presentations.