

GEOL 393/394

Senior Thesis and Geology Capstone Program

SPRING 2021

Tuesday 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Location: BPS 1238 (when in person)

Zoom (when remote)

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr. Philip M. Piccoli

OFFICE: Room 1109 Geology Building

OFFICE HOURS: by appointment or Tuesday 2-3:30 p.m. (in person, or over Zoom)

CONTACT INFORMATION: For questions, e-mail: piccoli@umd.edu

We will be following all university regulations concerning the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes testing every two weeks, and reporting test results appropriately and quickly. Details of the regulations can be found at: <http://return.umd.edu>, and are subject to change.

Per the University plan for the Spring semester, the first two weeks of classes, and the two weeks following Spring Break, will be delivered remotely.

January 26: (Zoom)

Topics: Orientation- Selecting and Refining a Project; getting started.
Discussion of grading policy (see below, and handout).

Note: GEOL 394 students should be sure to consult the new syllabus for important dates.

February 2: (Zoom)

Topic: Scientific Method I, including how it applies to the senior thesis.

For Next Week: Review "Writing Guide for the Senior Thesis" for the next class (on ELMS-Canvas)

February 9: (In Person)

Topic: English Skills: Written and Spoken English (on ELMS-Canvas).

Due (393): Project Description Due by email to me. Please put PROJECT DESCRIPTION in the subject line, and your name and 393 in the file name.
Due: start of class.

February 16: (In Person)

Topic: Preparing a Presentation

Due (393): **Project Approval Sheets Due** (submit in paper form: place in my mailbox, or give to me in class). Due: start of class.

February 23: (In Person)

Topic: Scientific Method II: data collection, numbers, digits, uncertainty.

March 1 (Monday): Not a class!

Due (393): **Project Paragraph + Outline Due (electronic, to Todd)^Δ**. For 393: A hard copy of your Outline must be signed by your advisor, and placed in my mailbox by the due date of the electronic version. This is an indication of your advisor's approval of your Outline! Word and PDF versions required. Deadline: 4:00 p.m.

Due (394): **Written Progress Report Due** (electronic: 500 word minimum (not including name, title, and other heading information) updated abstract indicating your progress to date - electronic, to Todd). Word and PDF versions required. Deadline: 4:00 p.m.

March 2 (Tuesday): No class.

Note: Work on your presentation

March 5 (Friday): Presentations (1 p.m., in ESJ 1224 (tentative location): In Person).

Due at 11:00 a.m. (393, 394): Electronic copies of Powerpoint Files to Todd

Presentation (393): Oral Presentation of Topic for 393

Presentation (394): Oral Progress Report for 394

March 9: (In Person)

Note: One on One Meetings (Review Presentations)
Writing Lab (CHEM 1215)

March 16: Spring Break

March 23: (Zoom)

THIS IS FOR BOTH 393 and 394!

Topics: Discussion of Research Progress
Preparing the Final Paper and Final Presentation

Special Note: At this point, you should be in conversations with your advisor about preparing your rough DRAFTS. Note that I indicated plural: draftS - writing your rough drafts must be a cooperative and iterative process, involving your effort and advice from your advisor(s).

March 30 (Tuesday): Zoom

Topics: Scientific Integrity
Copyright and Plagiarism
Question and Answer

April 6 (Tuesday):

Note: No class. Work on your rough drafts.

April 9 (Friday):

Due at Noon (393, 394): **Rough Drafts** are due. Send an electronic version to me by email. Ask your advisor(s) for their preference (email, paper). You must deliver your rough draft to your advisor(s).

April 13 (Tuesday):

Note: No class. Work on your research and your presentation.

April 16 (Friday):

Returned (393, 394): Rough Drafts returned from me (393 and 394). Students need to make arrangements for when you will get the rough draft back from your advisor.

April 20 (Tuesday):

Note: No class. Work on your final paper.

April 27 (Tuesday):

Due at 9:00 a.m. (393): Final Proposal Due (electronic, to Todd)*

Due at 9:00 a.m. (394): Final Report Due (electronic, to Todd)*

May 5 (Wednesday):

Due at Noon (393/394): Electronic Copy of Poster to Todd

May 7 (Friday): 1 p.m., (Online – tentative)

Presentation (393, 394): Poster Presentations

Other Information

Academic Accommodations:

If any 393-394 students have a documented disability that may affect their work in Geology 393 or 394 they should discuss this with me by **no later than the second week of class**. You should contact Disability Support Services: <http://counseling.umd.edu/DSS/>

Academic Integrity:

The University of Maryland has a nationally recognized Code of Academic Integrity, administered by the Student Honor Council. This Code sets standards for academic integrity at Maryland for all undergraduate and graduate students. As a student you are responsible for upholding these standards for this course. It is very important for you to be aware of the consequences of cheating, fabrication, facilitation, and plagiarism. See <https://www.studentconduct.umd.edu/academic-dishonesty>. Students are prohibited from cheating on exams, plagiarizing papers, having another person write their paper, submitting the same paper for credit in two courses without authorization, buying papers, submitting fraudulent documents, and forging signatures.

Please place this as an appendix in your 393 and 394 final papers:

"I pledge on my honor that I have not given or received any unauthorized assistance or plagiarized on this assignment."

Computing Guide for Senior Thesis Work:

Monday before the first talk of the semester: (talk to Todd (karwoski@umd.edu) about his availability, and for his preferred method of file transfer)

Project Paragraph+Outlines or *Progress Reports* (for 393 and 394, respectively): Supply file to Todd Karwoski by the date and time specified (*vide supra*); you must be sure that Todd gets it directly from you.

Week of both Friday presentations: PowerPoint Files for Oral Presentations, or poster files, must be delivered, by a method to be determined by you and Todd.

If you make your poster in Powerpoint, Todd would like the original PowerPoint. If you use some other software to construct your poster, you can convert your file to a PDF and give that to Todd. It is your responsibility to be sure that he receives the PowerPoint file or other appropriate file, and that it is in working order.

Electronic copies of Final Papers (393, 394): Electronic copies of final papers are due in Microsoft Word and PDF format (do not submit your drafts/final papers in Google Docs!). They will be converted to a .pdf file format by Todd. Please do not leave blank pages in your presentation; please single space the document; and, wrap text around figures. Please have a separate title page. Pages should be numbered, but no number should be on the cover page. E-mail the file if appropriate, or present a disk to Todd, or follow Todd's instructions if he presents you with an alternative.

Course Evaluations and Policies:

CourseEvalUM will be open for students to complete their evaluations for the Spring semester. Students can go directly to the [website](#) to complete their evaluations. This is for GEOL 393 students only (GEOL 394 students register with their primary advisor).

Relevant undergraduate student/course policies and procedures:
<http://www.ugst.umd.edu/coursereLATEDpolicies.html>

Course Organization:

One meeting per week, unless otherwise noted, at the beginning of the semester. Students are expected to meet weekly with their main research advisor, and maintain communication with me and their advisor on at least a weekly basis. You can email me 24/7. I will get back to you as soon as I can.

Grading:

(More detail is on Canvas/ELMS): The rough draft of your 393 or 394 paper will account for 10% of the final course grade, the final paper will account for 60%, and the final presentation will account for 30%. Note however, that failure to make either of the two required presentations without an approved excuse (e.g., a medical excuse backed by a formal medical document), or failure to submit the final paper on time, can result in failure of the course. The grade for the rough draft will be based on the rough draft rubric, which is on Canvas.

Senior Thesis Grants:

There are limited funds sometimes available to support undergraduate senior thesis research. If you are looking for support, please inquire by sending email to me.

Writing Guides:

Suggested Alternate Writing Guides: 1) (Primary Guide) Irvine, T.N., Rumble, Douglas, and Irvine, L.M., 1992, A writing guide for petrological (and other geological) manuscripts: *Journal of Petrology*, p. 1- 46. Can be found online [here](#). 2) Fogarty, M. (2011) *Grammar Girl Presents: The Ultimate Writing Guide for Students*. St. Martin's Griffin, New York. If you feel you are having difficulty writing please be sure to utilize the Writing Center resource available to you.