

GEOL 393/394

Senior Thesis and Geology Capstone Program

SPRING 2023

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

Location: ATL 2352

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr. Philip M. Piccoli

OFFICE: Room 1109 Geology Building

OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday 2-3:30 p.m. or by appointment

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

January 31:

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

February 7:

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

February 14:

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 21:

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 27th (Monday): Not a class!

Due (393): **Project Paragraph + Outline Due (electronic, to Todd).** 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.

February 28th (Tuesday):

In class time to work on presentations, practice talks.

March 3 (Friday): Presentations (~1 p.m., Location to be determined).

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 7: GEOL 393 and GEOL 394
Note: One on One Meetings (Review Presentations)
Writing Lab (CHEM 1215)

March 14th:
Topic: Scientific Method II: data collection, numbers, digits, uncertainty. Broader impacts.
Scientific integrity, copyright and plagiarism, question and answer

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 21: Spring Break

March 28:
Topics: THIS IS FOR BOTH GEOL 393 and 394.
Discussion of Research Progress
Preparing the Final Paper and Final Presentation

April 4 (Tuesday):
Note: No class. Work on your rough drafts.

April 7 (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 11 (Tuesday):
Note: No class. Work on your research and your poster presentation.

April 14 (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 18 (Tuesday):
Note: Workshop on how to make posters (1215 CHEM).
Work on your final paper.

April 25 (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 3 (Wednesday):
Due at Noon (393/394): Electronic Copy of Poster to Todd

May 5 (Friday): 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. **(Location to be determined)**
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://studentconduct.umd.edu/you/students/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:

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 you to complete your evaluations for the Spring semester. You can go directly to the [website](#) to complete your 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. You are expected to meet weekly with their main research advisor, and maintain communication with me and your 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.