

GEOL394 Geology Senior Thesis: Research

Instructor

Dr. Philip Candela

Department of Geology

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Office Hours: by appointment or WED 2-3; best to email me if you want to talk.

Course description:

The second semester of the two-semester Geology Senior Thesis. Investigation of a specific original research question in geosciences. Emphasis is on completion of original research proposed in GEOL393 and presentation of results both in writing and in public presentations that adhere to geosciences professional standards.

Suggested Writing 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.](#) You will need to print this .pdf from the course web page to use it.

Prerequisites:

For GEOL majors only; minimum of Junior standing, GEOL393 and at least 3 Upper Level GEOL courses.

Communication

Many reminders, changes, etc. will be sent to you by email, but only if you send me an email from your preferred email address asap!

Academic integrity

The University of Maryland, College Park 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. For more information on the Code of Academic Integrity or the Student Honor Council, please visit <http://www.shc.umd.edu>.

To further exhibit your commitment to academic integrity, remember to sign the Honor Pledge on all examinations and assignments: "*I pledge on my honor that I have not given or received any unauthorized assistance on this examination (assignment).*"

Attendance

Participation in class sessions is essential for satisfactory completion of the course. As the primary focus of the course, attendance at and participation in mid-term and final

presentations are absolute requirements. Only students with written, excused absences are entitled to make-up any written or oral presentation, and that should be at a time convenient for the instructor and student. University Policy provides several cases for which student absence is excused (www.testudo.umd.edu/soc/atedasse.html). Note that the student must request to be excused in writing and supply appropriate documentation. If the campus is closed for any reason during a scheduled activity, the material of that day will either be rescheduled.

Special needs

I will make every possible effort to accommodate your request for special accommodations, when justified. However, any requests must be submitted as soon as possible but no later than the end of the schedule adjustment period. *Do not wait!*

Students with disabilities

If you have a documented disability, you should contact Disability Support Services 0126 Shoemaker Hall. Each semester students with documented disabilities should apply to DSS for accommodation request forms, which you can provide to your professors as proof of your eligibility for accommodations. The rules for eligibility and the types of accommodations a student may request can be reviewed on the DSS web site. If you have a disability documented by DSS that may affect your work in Geology 393 or 393H, you should discuss this with Dr. Candela by the second week class.

Religious observances

The University System of Maryland policy provides that students should not be penalized because of observances of their religious beliefs, students shall be given an opportunity, whenever feasible, to make up within a reasonable time any academic assignment that is missed due to individual participation in religious observances. *It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor of any intended absences for religious observances in advance.*

Grading

The final grade will be based on the overall quality of final written and oral presentations, in consultation with the Geology faculty.

Website

A website for the class is available at <http://www.geol.umd.edu/~candela/sthesis.html>.

Course evaluation

CourseEvalUM will be open for students to complete their evaluations for Spring 2009 courses between Tuesday, April 28, and Sunday, May 10. Students can go directly to the "<http://www.courseevalum.umd.edu>" website to complete their evaluations, beginning April 28. You will be alerted about these dates and provided more information closer to that time, and students will be alerted via their official university e-mail account.

Students who complete evaluations for all of their courses in the previous semester (excluding summer), can access the posted results via Testudo's CourseEvalUM, reporting link for any course on campus that has at least a 70% response rate. You can find more information, including periodic updates, at the ["https://www.irpa.umd.edu/Assessment/CourseEval/fac_faq.shtml"](https://www.irpa.umd.edu/Assessment/CourseEval/fac_faq.shtml) course evaluation website.

The expectation is that all students will complete these. This is YOUR chance to anonymously evaluate this class: please use this opportunity!

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Schedule

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MON Sept 28: **Written Progress Report** (Two page minimum-electronic: include an updated abstract indicating your progress to date)

FRIDAY, October 2, 2008 **Oral Presentation of Topic **Oral Progress Report (2 P.M. – CSS 2324)

Oct 20: Discussion of Research Progress; Preparing the Final Paper and Final Presentation.

FRI NOV 13 NOON: Doubled-spaced ROUGH DRAFTS DUE: The number of copies of the rough draft that you need to turn is ONE PLUS the number of your advisors. The one extra copy shall be placed in my mailbox. Deliver your rough draft to your advisor(s). (paper only - not electronic).

WED Nov 18 Rough Drafts Returned to Student From Advisor(s) (**Please make arrangements for when, where and how you will get the rough draft back from the appropriate parties.** The copy I examine will be in a box outside my door by late WED afternoon.

WED, Nov 25 NOON Final Report Due (electronic + paper) (Electronic copies must be sent to Todd Karwoski); also, turn in one high-quality paper copy of your final paper with photos, color where needed, bound ,with a cover*).

Nov 26, 27 Thanksgiving

FRI, Dec 4 **Oral Presentation of 394 Thesis

Please talk to your advisor about Undergraduate Research Day in April

NOTE: Double Spaced Rough Drafts and Single Spaced Final Project Reports are due at NOON; all other files/papers required for 394 are due by 4:00 P.M. on the date specified. These deadlines are hard deadlines). PAPERS WILL NOT BE RETURNED.

You will need to print this .pdf to use it.

**** ALL FACULTY PLEASE ATTEND**

Fall 2008 Computing guide for Senior Thesis work

MON –before your first talk: (talk to Todd (karwoski@umd.edu) about his availability, and for his transfer)

Project Paragraph+Outlines or *Progress Reports* (for 393 and 394, respectively): (supply file to date and time specified (*vide supra*); you can copy me, but you must be sure that Todd gets it d

THURS/FRI before both FRI presentations

PowerPoint Files for Oral Presentations must be either hand delivered or e-mailed to Todd Kar or 9-11 AM FRI. It is your responsibility to be sure that he received the .ppt file, and that it is i

N.B.: no computing issues are related to turning in the doubled-spaced Rough Draft

* Electronic copies of Final Papers (393, 394) are due in Word format for conversion to .pdf file f leave blank pages in your presentation, and please single space the document; wrap text around figures. I title page. (e-mail the file if appropriate, or present a disk to Todd, or follow Todd's instructions of he pr alternative). Check syllabus and the 393/4 Guide for hard copy requirements. Hard copy must be placed mailbox.

A limited number of small grants may be available on a competitive basis to Geology 393 students, contingent upon the availability of funds. Interested students must submit an application on or before the due date of their final report for GEOL 393. The application will consist of one paragraph describing the project to be undertaken and an estimated budget for applicable expenses: any out-of-pocket expenses related to the successful completion of the senior thesis. Examples include all fieldwork related expenses (gas, camping fees, tolls, etc.), sample preparation costs (e.g., thin sections), equipment (field notebooks, etc.) and thesis preparation costs.

One Senior Thesis Prize may be awarded each semester.

[1] 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 their approval of your Outline!