Seminar Syllabus - Fall 2014

Geological Sciences
Univ. of Texas at El Paso

GEOL 5101

Instructor: Aaron A. Velasco
Office: 227B, 101 Geological Sciences

CRN: 24539

Th., 3:30 - 4:30 pm, rm. 123
Office Hours: By appointment
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Course Goals and Objectives:
The main goals of the seminar is to 1) expose students to leading edge geoscience through presentations from experts, 2) prepare students for professional meetings, 3) and learn professional conduct in a formal setting.

Professional Conduct:
To align with the goals of this course, you will be expected to: 1) show up on time, 2) be engaged in the guest lectures, 3) not leave until the end of the lecture and questions, and 4) not miss any seminars.

Grades and Grading:
Grades will be calculated attendance (70%) and assignments (30%). I must clear any absence prior to missing any seminar. The only excuses for missing a lecture will be attendance/presentation at a professional conference, and/or a required attendance from a course you are currently taking (e.g., a field trip).

Meeting with Speakers:
You will be required to meet with 3 speakers for at least 30 minutes each. This serves as an opportunity to learn more about each speaker’s science and to have a forum free to ask questions relevant to your own research. We may or may not set up lunches for this forum to occur. It is your responsibility to work with the seminar host to schedule your meeting (you can meet in groups). You must turn in a sheet with the 3 questions that you asked the speaker, and obtain the speaker signature on the list of questions. Turn in this sheet of paper to me directly or in my mailbox in the main office before the next seminar.

This exercise is intended for students to develop communication and collaboration skills and to learn how to engage colleagues in a professional setting.
Additional Resources:

I commonly get job, scholarship, and/or internship postings and find it inefficient to email all students about the opportunities. I have these opportunities posted on UTEP’s wiki pages (wiki.utep.edu), titled Geology Department and Environmental Science Students (https://wiki.utep.edu/display/geostudents/Home). Please browse these opportunities frequently! You never know what opportunities are out there!