INSTRUCTOR
Dr. Gail L. Arnold
Research Assistant Professor, Geological Sciences

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MEETING PATTERN & LOCATION
MW 10:30pm-11:50pm Geology Building 302, 3 credits
I will use your ‘utep’ email address for communication, so make sure you are checking it.

COURSE DESCRIPTION
The purpose of this course is to provide students with the tools and ability to begin the scientific communication process and to develop the basis on which to write their graduate research proposal. First impressions still matter and a concise and clear resume is also an important item to develop. We will discuss the various methods used to introduce yourself and your research to the larger community. In the advanced age of PowerPoint assisted presentations we will practice the art of presenting yourself without digital assistance (e.g. ‘chalk talks’ and ‘elevator talks’) as well as good practice techniques for poster presentations and standard oral presentations.

COURSE RECOMMENDATIONS
This course will often take the form of a workshop. You will be expected to contribute and present in class on a regular basis. It is recommended that you have some personal research results or proposal to draw from to get the most from this class. Early stage students without developed research results or ideas will be asked to draw from recent literature for their class work. No required textbook.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
1) Learn to be independent from digital media
2) Become both comfortable and concise in speaking about your research and goals
3) Learn good practice skills for poster and oral presentations

PARTICIPATION IS ESSENTIAL (60 % of your grade)
Please contact Dr. Arnold about any concerns, schedule conflicts, etc. in advance or otherwise as soon as possible! Your grade is based on participation, so any missed classes and assignments must have proper documentation or your grade will drop. Valid excuses include illness, absence with the instructor’s prior approval, official University business, etc. If you miss a class, you must notify me by email why this happened. Conferences, workshops, planned events require advance notice. Unforeseen absences should be dealt with as soon as is reasonable.

Accommodations are possible for active duty military and others, but arrangements must be made in a timely manner. If you are in the military with the potential of being called to military service and/or training during the course of the semester, you are encouraged to contact the instructor as soon as possible. If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148, or by email to cass@utep.edu, or visit their office located in UTEP Union East, Room 106. For additional information, please visit the CASS website at www.sa.utep.edu/cass.

ASSIGNMENTS (40% of your grade) – you will be graded on your ability to follow instructions and submit on time as much as the content of your assignments!
1. Seminar assessment – As part of this course you will be required to assess the weekly Geology Seminar. Sometimes a technical critique, sometimes an outline, sometimes summary. The style required will be announced the Wednesday class before the seminar.
2. Other – As a regular part of this course you will produce a resume, cover letter, abstract, figures, poster, oral presentation, and any other documents that we will cover in class. Each assignment will be tasked with a list of criteria on which you will be ranked.