Scientific Communication
GEOL 5315 (18838) – GEOL 6135 (18839)

INSTRUCTOR
Dr. Gail L Arnold
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MEETING PATTERN & LOCATION
T 12:00pm-2:50pm Geology Building 404, 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 an important first step. 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 in their research field 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.
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 on Thursday, the week 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.

DISABILITIES STATEMENT
I will make any reasonable accommodations for students with limitations due to disabilities, including learning disabilities. Please see me personally before or after class in the first two weeks or make an appointment, to discuss any special needs you might have. If you have a documented disability and require specific accommodations, you will need to contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) in the East Union Bldg., Room 106 within the first two weeks of classes. CASS can also be reached in the following ways: Web: sa.utep.edu/cass; Phone: (915) 747-5148 voice or TTY; Fax: (915) 747-8712; email: cass@utep.edu

PLAGIARISM/ACADEMIC DISHONESTY STATEMENT
Cheating/Plagiarism: Cheating is unethical and not acceptable. Plagiarism is using information or original wording in a paper without giving credit to the source of that information or wording: it is also not acceptable. Do not submit work under your name that you did not do yourself. You may not submit work for this class that you did for another class. If you are found to be cheating or plagiarizing, you will be subject to disciplinary action, per UTEP catalog policy. Refer to http://www.utep.edu/dos/acadintg.htm for further information.

DROP DEADLINE
The Department of Geological Sciences and the College of Science aligns with UTEP with respect to the November 3rd drop deadline. No drops will be approved after that date unless the students withdraws from UTEP.