Scientific Writing – Proposals
GEOL 5315
GEOL 6315

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

Office: 207 Geology Building
E-mail: glarnold@utep.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION
The purpose of this course is to provide participants with the tools and ability to engage in the writing of their thesis proposal. We will discuss obligations, formats & how to use Word effectively, and deadlines. Although every writer may have his/her unique writing style, there are still many basic rules and guidelines that when followed will smooth the writing process for both student and supervisor. This course has a large basis in student participation. Students are expected to be ready to write the proposal for their research project in order to fully participate in the writing process and gain the most from this course.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK
No required textbook.

RECOMMENDED READING
Scientific Writing and Communication, A.H. Hofmann, Oxford University Press

COURSE OBJECTIVES
1) Learn to assess where you are in your writing process
2) Acquire a skill set to streamline the writing process
3) Draft of thesis proposal at minimum

PARTICIPATION IS ESSENTIAL (SEE GRADES)
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.

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.

Grades: Your participation and ability to follow formatting instructions are what will constitute your grade for this class. If you are not present, or do not follow instructions your grade will suffer!

Assessment of 5315 vs 6315 students: I do not foresee large differentiation between 5315 and 6315 students.
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.

DISABILITIES STATEMENT
We 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

DROP DEADLINE
The Department of Geological Sciences and the College of Science aligns with UTEP with respect to the March 30th drop deadline. No drops will be approved after that date unless the student withdraws completely from UTEP.