GEOL 800: Department of Earth & Ocean Sciences Seminar
Spring Semester, 2015
1 credit hour

Course Meetings: Thursdays, 3:00-4:00 PM in PSC 006, unless otherwise informed.
Instructor: Dave Barbeau, EWS 406
Office Hours: By appointment: 777.5162; dbarbeau@geol.sc.edu

The purpose of this course is to learn about current research in the Earth Sciences, and to think about how you might convey your own research ideas to a general audience. The learning process begins by listening to a variety of research presentations, and thinking about different ways to effectively convey new ideas and supporting data. This benefit will accrue from your regular attendance at the department's weekly seminar and thoughtful review of the presentations that are made there.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES
• Develop an appreciation for range of disciplinary research represented within the umbrella of Earth Science
• Learn about cutting edge developments across the field of Earth Science
• Develop critical thinking skills through question and assessment of presented research
• Assess the effectiveness of different styles and methods of persuasive communication

GRADING
This course is offered on a pass/fail basis only. Grades are awarded based on attendance, and the successful completion of a series of short-answer questions about each presentation:

1. What is the main contribution of this research? What do we know now that we did not know before the research was conducted?
2. Was the main point clearly conveyed? Why or why not?
3. What did you like about the style of the presentation (consider speaking style, slides, and pointer use)?
4. Was there anything about the style of the presentation that could be improved?
Finally, it is incumbent upon students in this course to do some brief background research on each seminar speaker. Such efforts may include reading recent papers, visiting the speaker’s website, and reading the presentation abstract in advance of the seminar.

The seminar schedule is posted in the "Department News" section of our web site at: www.geol.sc.edu, and is available as a Google Calendar here. Changes to the schedule will be updated to the aforementioned Google Calendar and by department-wide email.