

**ESCI 4600
EARTH SCIENCE SEMINAR (O)
SPRING 2021**

Instructor:	Dr. Matthew Eastin mdeastin@uncc.edu
Class Time:	Wednesdays at 10:10 – 11:00 am (Section 002) Wednesdays at 11:15 – 12:05 pm (Section 001)
Class Location:	Virtual (100% online - synchronous)
Office:	Zoom meetings
Office Hours:	By appointment
Teaching Assistant:	None
Text:	No text – All presentations and supplemental material will be provided.

Course Description: Advanced seminar series examining major historical and modern research themes in the Earth Sciences. Course work consists of a series of independent oral presentations. The course is designed for Environmental Studies, Earth & Environmental Science, Geology, and Meteorology majors with a senior standing.

Course Student Learning Objectives (SLOs):

1. Improve your oral communication skills for effective use in a professional setting.

Programmatic Student Learning Objectives (SLOs):

1. Demonstrate the ability to orally communicate social and scientific concepts (Env-Study – SLO3)
2. Demonstrate the ability to orally communicate scientific concepts. (Earth-Env-Science – SLO2)
3. Demonstrate the ability to verbally communicate a scientific topic to the public and Earth Science professionals (Geology – SLO3)
4. Practice oral communication skills to a degree whereby one can effectively communicate a scientific topic to the public. (Meteorology – SLO3)

Course Policies:

Attendance and Participation: Attendance is essential to maintaining an effective learning environment. Regular class attendance and active participation is expected. **All virtual classroom cameras must remain on throughout each class period.** Use of cell/smart phones, email, texting, and/or personal music players during class is strictly prohibited.

Netiquette: Open and mutually respectful communication of varied opinions, beliefs, and perspectives during online discussion encourages the free exchange of ideas that is essential to higher learning and to the ability to learn from each other. Students are expected to display tolerance for others' views in the course. They are also to refrain from the use of any inappropriate language anywhere within the course.

Unwelcome conduct directed toward another person based upon that person's actual or perceived race, actual or perceived gender, color, religion, age, national origin, ethnicity, disability, or veteran status, or for any other reason, may constitute a violation of University Policy 406, The Code of Student Responsibility. Any student suspected of engaging in such conduct will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

Assignment Deadlines: You are expected to complete assignments and give oral presentations as scheduled. Any exceptions due to participation in college-sanctioned events must be communicated to the instructor beforehand. There will be **no extra credit**.

Academic Integrity: Students are responsible for knowing and following the UNCC Code of Student Academic Integrity <http://www.legal.uncc.edu/policies/ps-105.html> and the UNCC Code of Student Responsibility <https://legal.uncc.edu/policies/up-406> in all aspects of their work in this course. This code forbids cheating, fabrication or falsification of information, multiple submissions of academic work, plagiarism, abuse of academic materials, and complicity of academic dishonesty. Standards of academic integrity will be enforced in this course.

Accommodations: Students in this course seeking accommodations to disabilities must first consult with the Office of Disability Services and follow the instructions of that office for obtaining accommodations.

Copyright: My lectures and course materials, including videos, presentations, tests, exams, outlines, and similar materials, are protected by copyright. I am the exclusive owner of copyright in those materials I create. I encourage you to take notes and make copies of course materials for your own educational use. However, you may not, nor may you knowingly allow others to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly without my express written consent. This includes providing materials to commercial course material suppliers or other similar services. Students who publicly distribute or display or help others publicly distribute or display copies or modified copies of an instructor's course materials may be in violation of University Policy 406, The Code of Student Responsibility. Similarly, you own copyright in your original papers and exam essays. If I am interested in posting your answers or papers on the course web site, I will request your written permission.

Course Requirements:

Class Participation: Each student is required to attend class and actively participate (ask questions and complete in-class activities) throughout the period. **All virtual classroom cameras must remain on throughout each class period.** Use of cell/smart phones, email, texting, and/or personal music players during class is strictly prohibited.

Professional Goals Presentation: Each student will give a 4-5 min presentation of their short-term and long-term professional goals, including (a) the historical motivation to pursue such a career path, (b) the education and training required to achieve such a career, and (c) how the long-term goals will stem from the short-term goals. No visuals are allowed. *More specific guidelines and evaluation rubrics will be available on the course website.*

Topic Presentation (with visuals): Each student will give a 4-5 min presentation on a geoscience topic/phenomenon of their choice. The presentation should effectively communicate the scientific significance and/or societal impact of the topic/phenomenon via **oral description and visual aids** (PowerPoint, physical examples, etc.). All topics must be approved by the instructor. *More specific guidelines and evaluation rubrics will be available on the course website.*

Topic Presentation (without visuals): Each student will give a second 4-5 min presentation on the **same** chosen geoscience topic/phenomenon. The second presentation should effectively communicate the scientific significance and/or societal impact of the topic/phenomenon via **only oral description**. *More specific guidelines and evaluation rubrics will be available on the course website.*

Scientific Paper Presentation: Each student will read and orally present a professional journal article on a geoscience topic/phenomenon of their choice. The presentations will be 13-15 minutes and length and provide an effective summary of the article's motivation, methodology, results, and conclusions. All articles must be approved by the instructor. *More specific guidelines and evaluation rubrics will be available on the course website.*

Evaluation:

The grading scale will be a standard percentile scale. Your final grade will be calculated using the following point distribution.

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Attendance and Class Participation	50	90-100	A
Presentation #1 – Professional Goals	50	80-89	B
Presentation #2 – Topic (with visuals)	50	70-79	C
Presentation #3 – Topic (without visuals)	50	60-69	D
Presentation #4 – Scientific Paper	50	0-59	F

Total Points	250		

Tentative Class Schedule:

<u>Week</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Subject</u>
1	Wed 1/20	Introduction to the Course
2	Wed 1/27	<i>Discussion – Effective Speaking Methods</i>
3	Wed 2/03	Professional Goals Presentations
4	Wed 2/10	No Class – Spring Break
5	Wed 2/17	Professional Goals Presentations
6	Wed 2/24	<i>Discussion – Effective use of Visuals</i> Have subject for topic presentation approved
7	Wed 3/03	Topic Presentations (with visuals)
8	Wed 3/10	Topic Presentations (with visuals)
9	Wed 3/17	Topic Presentations (without visuals)
10	Wed 3/24	Topic Presentations (without visuals)
11	Wed 3/31	<i>Discussion – Effective Scientific Presentations</i> Have journal article for paper presentation approved
12	Wed 4/07	Individual Paper Presentations
13	Wed 4/14	Individual Paper Presentations
14	Wed 4/21	Individual Paper Presentations
15	Wed 4/28	Individual Paper Presentations
16	Wed 5/05	Individual Paper Presentations