

ENVS/GEOL399 JUNIOR RESEARCH SEMINAR

Spring 2009

Monday, 3:30-6:30, Hayden Room 256

Instructor: Dr. Jane Dmochowski

Contact: janeed@sas.upenn.edu

Office Hours: By appointment: 360D Hayden Hall

Textbook: Student Projects in Environmental Science, 2008 Stuart Harrad, Lesley Batty, Miriam Diamond, and George Arhonditsis, Wiley Publishing

Overall Course Goal

This seminar is designed to help sophomores and juniors prepare for their Senior Thesis research. Topic selection, library research, presentation of data, basic research methods, advisor identification, and funding options will be discussed. This is a required course for the ENVS major. The course material will be tailored to the interests of the students enrolled.

Sample Assignment:

Using a dataset given to you (if you have already collected some data in a research project you may use these), you will present the data and the error in the data in various formats and using different software. In a 2-3 page paper, you will describe the pros and cons of each format and compare and contrast the different methods.

Grading

Grading Scheme

Assignments each worth 20%

Participation 5%

Final Paper 25%

Final Presentation 10%

No extra credit assignments.

Your final grade (updated throughout the semester in the Grade Center on Blackboard) will be based on your final percentage in the course as follows:

98-100% A+

92-97% A

89-91% A-

87-88% B+

82-86% B

79-81% B-

77-78% C+

72-76% C

69-71% C-

Tentative Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Assignment Name	Due date
1	1/26/2009	General strategies	Assignment 1	16-Feb
2	2/2/2009	Gathering your data		
3	2/9/2009	Summarizing your data		
4	2/16/2009	Excel, SPSS	Assignment 2	16-Mar
5	2/23/2009	Maple, Mathematica		
6	3/2/2009	Speakers		
7	3/9/2009	Spring Break		
8	3/16/2009	Library research	Assignment 3	6-Apr
9	3/23/2009	Testing hypotheses		
10	3/30/2009	Relationships		
11	4/6/2009	Mathematical modeling	Final Paper	27-Apr
12	4/13/2009	Presenting your work		
13	4/20/2009	speakers		
14	4/27/2009	presentations		

Notes:

I will update our **Blackboard** site frequently. Make sure you know how to use the site, that you have a correct email associated with your user name and that you check the site (and associated email) frequently.

Participation: Regularly attending class and participating is critical to your learning and success in the course.

Other tips: Be considerate of your classmates by arriving on time, turning off your cell phone, pager, or any other noise-making device before entering the classroom and refrain from having side discussions during lectures.

Course pre-requisites and expectations

This is an undergraduate level course. Students should be Environmental Studies and/or Geology majors in their sophomore or junior year. No research experience is necessary.

Academic dishonesty and plagiarism: See the student handbook or go to <http://www.vpul.upenn.edu/osl/acadint.html>.

Policy on Religious Holidays: The University recognizes/observes holidays as listed on <http://www.vpul.upenn.edu/osl/holidays.html>. If you observe any other holidays, please make special arrangements in person with me within the first two weeks of class.