

**Instructor:** Dr. Desmond Moser: B&GS 1070 (desmond.moser@uwo.ca)**Lectures/Seminars:** Monday 12:30-2:20, BGS Rm 1069

**Purpose:** The principle objective of this course is to increase the competency of graduate students in the critique and communication of scientific research. Students will participate weekly in informal discussions around key contributions to the scientific literature, and take responsibility for the moderation of one of these discussions. Students will also research a topic that is broadly in their field (but not directly related to their thesis), write a related scientific review paper in journal format, and communicate their findings orally in a symposium-style presentation. Students will experience a simulated publication process by submitting their review manuscript, peer-reviewing those of their classmates, and resubmitting their revised manuscripts in a timely fashion together with an explanatory letter to the editor. It is also strongly recommended that students attend the weekly departmental colloquium series and the GGS lectures.

Tentative Schedule

<b>Week#</b>	<b>Week of</b>	<b>Topic/Activity</b>	<b>Deadline item</b>
Week 1:	Sept 12	Organizational meeting/ Pick discussion moderator(s) #1  Prepare research review topic	
Week 2:	Sept 16	Seminar discussions	Review topic+CV to DM
Week 3:	Sept 23	Seminar discussions	
Week 4:	Sept 30	Seminar discussions	Establish review topic with Dr. Moser
Week 5:	Oct 7	Seminar discussions	"Scrutiny of the Abstract"; writing a review paper
Week 6:	Oct 14	Seminar discussions	
Week 7:	Oct 21	Seminar discussion	
Week 8:	Oct 28	Seminar discussion	Submit review paper abstract
FALL STUDY BREAK			
Week 9:	Nov 11	Seminar discussions	Submit your manuscript
Week 10:	Nov 18	Seminar discussions	Submit review of colleague's ms.
Week 11:	Nov 25?	Symposium (Note: extended class hours TBD) Presentation in symposium	
Week 12:	Dec 2	Class Wrap up	
Week 13	Dec 9	Submit manuscript, explanatory letter to editor accounting for revisions	

## Evaluation

<b>Task</b>	<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Grade weighting</b>
Participation in class discussions/critique of scientific papers	Ongoing	10%
In-class moderator of discussion/critique of a selected paper	1 session	10%
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Abstract of your Review paper	Oct 28	10%
Review paper – first submission	Nov 11	20%
Review of fellow student's paper	Nov 18	5%
Conference-style presentation of your Review paper	Nov 27 or 28	20%
Revised manuscript + letter to editor – to Dr. Moser	Dec 9	25%

### **Course Details:**

#### **Weekly Graduate Seminar: Discussion and critical examination of the literature: (20% total)**

9580/9680 graduate students will get together weekly to discuss scientific papers of their choice in an informal round-table format. **Attendance at these sessions is mandatory!** During student seminar discussions, one student will summarize and chair the paper (or group of papers) under discussion, and the other students will be expected to participate. Your participation grade comes from your attendance and participation at these student seminar discussions. 10% of your grade will be based on how well you chair your session

#### **Graduate Review Manuscript Topic Selection:**

The subject matter of your review paper is very important. It should not duplicate any previous thesis topic, or a previous presentation in this or any other course. It may be in a related field, but must not be closely allied to the student's research, past or present. Please **submit the following to Dr. Moser:**

- 1. Topic titles and a brief statement justifying the suitability of the topic,**
- 2. A brief C.V., including:**
- 3. Titles and dates of any previous theses or seminar-type course presentations etc.,**
- 4. Current supervisor**
- 5. Title (tentative if necessary) of your thesis or thesis project.**

This must be done promptly as you should get started with readings at an early date. The seminar should be an up-to-date presentation on a topic that the student has investigated in some depth, but remember that you will have a mixed audience and take this into consideration in the presentation. It is to your advantage to choose a topic that is at least somewhat controversial - there will be a question period after the talk. For inspiration you may wish to take a look at the "Discussions" or "Forum" section of journals like "Geology" or others, where geological controversies are commonly aired.

**Abstract (10%):** The students must submit an abstract (about double-spaced page ~250 words), together with a list of references (no more than one page of references), compiled in a standard format such as that of the Canadian Journal of Earth Sciences. The abstract and references should be no more than one page each (you can save paper by printing them on two sides of a single sheet). Copies must be emailed to Dr. Moser ([desmond.moser@uwo.ca](mailto:desmond.moser@uwo.ca)) by beginning of lecture Thursday, November 7th so that the titles can be posted in DOWN TO EARTH to notify the public of the upcoming symposium.

**Submission of Manuscript (20%):** Each student shall submit a review-style manuscript based on the format as required for *Canadian Journal of Earth Sciences*.

**Oral Presentation (20%): (extended class hours TBD)** Each student will be expected to present a 10 minute-long seminar to the class with a 5 minute question period. These presentations will be made in a one-day symposium attended by the class (and others who wish to attend - all will be invited). **Attendance for the entire day is mandatory. Participation is expected (i.e. ask questions!).**

**Manuscript Peer Review (5%):** Each student will be assigned one of your peer's manuscripts to review. Pay attention to both style and content of this paper. 5% of your mark will be awarded on the basis of your review of this paper using CJES guidelines. Constructive criticism only please!

**Revised Manuscript (25%):** Your corrected manuscripts will be submitted to me as the associate editor, for final grading. Other faculty "guest editors" may also be invited to review and grade your final work. Submission of a revised manuscript allows you to 'learn from your mistakes' as well as experience a process similar to that of formal peer review. Take care in making your revisions as this step is worth more than half of your grade for the manuscript. Submit the revised manuscript together with a 'Letter to the Editor' accepting or refuting any suggested changes from reviewers.

## Regulations

### Illness and Other Circumstances:

If you are unable to meet a course requirement due to illness or other serious circumstances, you must provide valid medical or other supporting documentation to the Dean's office as soon as possible and contact your instructor immediately.

It is the student's responsibility to make alternative arrangements with their instructor once the accommodation has been approved and the instructor has been informed. In the event of a missed final examination, a "Recommendation of Special Examination" form must be obtained from the Dean's Office immediately. For further information please

see:

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf)

A UWO Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is required where a student is seeking academic accommodation. This documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial consultation with the physician or walk

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in clinic. An SMC can be downloaded under the Medical Documentation heading of the following web site:

<https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>.

### Accessibility Statement:

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 661-2111 x.82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.

## Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence. The UWO Senate Academic Handbook defines plagiarism as "The act of appropriating the literary composition of another, or parts or passages of his writings, or the ideas or language of the same, and passing them off as the product of one's own mind." Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as citations. For more information see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar.

Students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following web site:

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

## Support Services:

Registrarial Services

<http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/>

Student Support Center:

<http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

You may also refer to complete UWO course regulations at:

<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/exam/courseoutlines.pdf>