

## Geology/Geophysics 9580A/9680A Course Outline

**Title:** Graduate Seminar

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**Aim of the Course:** This is a required course for all new M.Sc. and Ph.D. students in the Department of Earth Sciences. The objectives of the course are to develop: i) strong research skills, ii) a strong ability to present information orally, iii) familiarity with grant proposal writing, and iv) scientific learning skills through teamwork exercises.

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Instructor: Dr. Patricia L. Corcoran; BGS 0164; Email: [pcorcor@uwo.ca](mailto:pcorcor@uwo.ca)  
Lectures: Tuesdays from 10:30-12:30, BGS 1053

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### **Topics:**

- 1) Evaluation of the Scientific Method, Ethics of Science, and the Use of Models
- 2) Effective Research Proposal Design
- 3) Effective Scientific Presentations
- 4) Teamwork Exercises with Special Topics in Earth Sciences

### **Grading:**

- 1) Written assignments for designing a formal research proposal 40%  
-the final research proposal will be graded by two faculty members, emeritus professors, post-doctoral fellows or research associates in the Department of Earth Sciences
- 2) Peer Review of research proposal 10%
- 3) Oral presentation and defense of formal research proposal 20%  
-this symposium will take place on one or two days between November 28 and December 3
- 4) Weekly teamwork presentations 20%
- 5) Participation 10%  
-this includes participation in class AND attendance at the weekly Earth Sciences Colloquium

**Policy on late assignments:** All assignments are due on the date specified on the assignment. 10% will be deducted for every day late. If you have exceptional circumstances, please contact Dr. Corcoran prior to the due date.

**Scholastic offences** are taken seriously and 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/scholoff.pdf>.

**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 assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using proper referencing such as citations. For more information see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar.

**Policy on illness:** 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 Dr. Corcoran as soon as possible. It is your responsibility to make alternative arrangements once the accommodation has been approved.

**Accessibility Statement:** Please contact Dr. Corcoran 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 x82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.