

## Fall 2012 GEOL 497 (undergrad)/GEOL 694 (grad) Research Design Dr. Pedone

Office and office hours: Live Oak 1202, Thursdays 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. or by prior appointment

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### Course Objectives

The objective of the course is for you to advance your skills in scientific reasoning, critical reading, use of literature and information databases, and writing in order to construct a clear and concisely stated, well organized, well written research proposal for your Senior thesis or Master thesis. You can later adapt the proposal to fulfill the requirements of different agencies, such as the Geological Society of America Graduate Student Research Grants (deadline: February 1, 2013) or the CSUN Associated Students ARRA funds.

Specific goals include:

1. Learning the parts and purposes of specific components of research proposals.
2. Analyzing research proposals for strengths and weaknesses
3. Identifying and comprehending content of key references for your proposals (Grads 5, UG 3)
4. Iteratively developing a written proposal for an original research project.
5. Creating a CV and learning networking techniques to introduce yourself to prospective graduate advisors and employers at conferences and meetings.
6. Presenting your project proposal orally and graphically through talks and/or poster presentations.

### Course Expectations and Policies

1. **The course is challenging and will require time, diligence and a significant amount of effort in order to master the material, despite the 1-unit credit value.** You should expect to devote at least 3 hours each week outside of class to complete assignments, more if your writing skills are weak.
2. You must arrange for weekly or bi-weekly meetings with your advisor for discussions concerning the goals, significance, methods, and budget of your proposed research. You must obtain the "signature" of your advisor (via an email to me) stating that he/she has seen and provided input to each draft of your proposal submissions.
3. It might be necessary for me to adjust the schedule of topics and assignments. Updated versions will be posted on Moodle. **Be sure to check Moodle regularly so that you have the most up-to-date information on assignments and due dates.**
4. **Weekly attendance and on-time arrival is mandatory, and I will be very strict about this. There are no makeups for in-class exercises.** If a scheduled academically related event conflicts with a class, you must supply a letter from the faculty member associated with that event at least TWO weeks PRIOR to the class that you will miss. If you miss class due to an *extraordinary* circumstance (such as a serious illness or an emergency), email me ASAP about why you missed class and supply official documentation of the cause as soon as possible. I will evaluate each individual circumstance.
5. **NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED.** You are better off turning in what you have completed than turning in nothing. Drafts of your proposal must be submitted through the Turnitin component integrated with Moodle. The software is set not to accept late assignments. No submission = 0 points. Time management is an important skill. Check the due dates in this course against assignments and field trips in other courses and plan accordingly.
6. A Proposal Review Panel, consisting of Pedone and two other faculty (none of whom will be your advisor) will read your final proposal and score it on a rubric. The average of the panel's scores will constitute 20% of your final grade.

7. I welcome simple questions on email, but please allow for a 24-hour response time on week days. Messages sent on weekends will likely not be answered until Monday.
8. If you have questions or concerns about assignments, come see me right away so that these are clearly up in a timely manner. If you cannot make office hours, please schedule an appointment. I am here Monday-Friday.
9. Cell phones are not to be heard or seen in this class. Your attention is to be on the presentation, not your text messages. If your phone comes out, I will deduct 5 points from your quiz that day.
10. You can take notes on a laptop or tablet, but I see that you are using it for some other purpose, I will publically announce this to your classmates and deduct 5 points from your quiz that day.
11. **I do not tolerate any form of academic dishonesty.** This includes but is not limited to: cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, plagiarism, or lying about an excuse for missing an assignment. I fully expect that each of you will uphold the integrity of the academic environment at CSUN; however, if I find evidence of academic dishonesty, I will report it to the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs. Furthermore, I will give you a zero for the assignment and a full letter-grade deduction for the course.
12. In accordance with the University policy, the last day to drop the class through SOLAR is September 14. Last day to drop with a hardcopy form with permission of instructor and department chair is September 21. No drops are permitted after this date.

### Course Evaluation

Final grade for the course be assessed as follows:

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| 1. Attendance, In-class and homework exercises | 20% |
| 2. Annotated references                        | 5%  |
| 3. Draft 1                                     | 10% |
| 4. Draft 2                                     | 15% |
| 5. Draft 3                                     | 25% |
| 6. Proposal Review Panel average score         | 25% |

In the event that you have a borderline grade, I will use your class participation as a basis for assigning you a grade. Undergraduates taking this course are expected to perform close to a graduate level. Final grades will take into account the difference in experience level. That said, graduate students are expected to perform at a higher level than undergraduates. I do not grade on a curve. The grading scale is as follows:

A ≥ 93	B- = 80-82.99	D+ = 67-69.99
A- = 90-92.99	C+ = 77-79.99	D = 63-66.99
B+ = 87-89.99	C = 73-76.99	D- = 60-62.99
B = 83-86.99	C- = 70-72.99	F = < 60

**I do not give 'Incompletes' for grades. No exceptions.**

### Weekly Schedule

Dates	topic	assignment
August 30	Syllabus; literature search	Set up meeting schedule with your advisor. With the guidance of your advisor, create a list of five top journals and/or special publications that will be key to your research proposal. <b>See assignment due September 10.</b> Prepare a recent CV/résumé and bring to class on September 6.

September 6	CV and professional demeanor. Have your CV/résumé with you.	Revise and develop your CV/résumé and submit to AAPG EXPO, if you are interested in interviewing for a summer internship. Begin your literature search and review and complete Assignment 1.
<b>Monday, September 10</b>		<b>Assignment 1: upload a file that shows the tentative meeting schedule with your advisor and the list of potential journals/special publications for your proposal.</b>
September 13	Components of a research proposal. RFP for GEOL 497/694. Example proposals.	Continue your literature search. Meet with your advisor to set up goals to meet the October 8 deadline. Read Gopen and Swan up to "The Stress Position".
September 20	Gopen and Swan Part 1 and in-class writing exercises	<b>Submit Assignment 2 Writing Practice through Turnitin to make sure you can log into this system.</b> Complete reading Gopen and Swan.
September 27	Gopen and Swan, Part 2 and in-class writing exercises	<b>Assignment 3: Annotated references due. Post on Moodle.</b> Read examples of short-format research proposals. Begin writing Draft 1 of your proposal
October 4	final discussion of sample proposals; figures	Continue working on Draft 1.
<b>Monday, October 8</b>	<b>DRAFT 1 DUE BY 8 AM</b>	<b>Submit Draft 1 (Problem Statement and Significant) through Turnitin</b>
October 11	<b>No class. AAPG Expo Field Trip</b>	Attend the EXPO field trip if possible and/or EXPO events and practice skills learned on September 6. Complete <b>Assignment 4: EXPO "networking" experience with the name of at least one company representative to whom you spoke and a brief summary of your discussion.</b>
<b>Monday, October 15</b>	<b>Submit Assignment 4: EXPO "networking" experience by 5 pm</b>	Receive feedback on Draft 1 via Turnitin
October 18	Common problems encountered in Draft 1	
<b>Monday, October 22</b>	<b>DRAFT 2 DUE BY 10 AM</b>	<b>Submit Draft 2 (revised Problem Statement and Significance and new Previous Work/Context) through Turnitin</b>
October 25	Budgets	
<b>Monday, October 29</b>		Receive feedback on Draft 2 via Turnitin
November 1	Common problems encountered in Draft 2	
<b>Monday, November 5</b>	<b>DRAFT 3 DUE BY 10 AM</b>	<b>Submit Draft 3 (revised Problem Statement and Significance, revised Previous Work/Context, and new Methods, new Potential Impact, new budget) through Turnitin</b>

November 8	Graduates: 4-minute, 1 or 2 figure talks	
Monday, November 12		Receive feedback on Draft 3 via Turnitin
November 15	Undergraduates: 4-minute, 1 figure talks	
<b>Monday, November 19</b>	<b>Complete proposal due</b>	<b>This final draft will be given to your two external panel members.</b>
November 22	<b>Thanksgiving Holiday</b>	
November 29	in-class assessment and final discussion	
December 6	<b>no class: AGU meeting</b>	
December 13	<b>no exam for this course</b>	