

**GEOLOGY 495: SENIOR SEMINAR
FALL 2009**

Class: Monday 5:00-5:50, DL 105

Instructor: Richard Laws

Office: DL 118; MG 1335

Office Hours: MW 11:00-12:00 in DL 118; or by appointment

Office Phone: 962-4125

E-mail: laws@uncwil.edu

Text: Hedman, Matthew, 2007. "The Age of Everything"; The University of Chicago Press, 249 p.

You will need to order this book ASAP through Amazon, Barnes and Noble, ABE Books, or a similar web site. It should cost no more than about \$12-15.

I will also post additional materials on the course Blackboard page. You should check the page regularly and print relevant handouts and information.
<http://ncvista.blackboard.com>

Attendance: Since we meet only once per week, class attendance is required.

Purpose, objectives, and goals: This course serves several purposes within your degree program and for the department. First and foremost, this course fulfills the University's oral competency requirement for all students. Therefore one of the main objectives is to give you instruction and practice in oral presentations. The course also is part of the department's ongoing assessment program. Therefore, your work in this course will be evaluated with respect to the learning outcomes established for each degree program within the department in order to evaluate the department's success in training you. These learning outcomes include knowledge of basic geological content, and facility with basic quantitative and communication skills as they apply to the geosciences. Also, the course provides an opportunity to apply what you have learned to investigate and discuss ideas that you may not have covered in another class. The goal is for each student to develop some proficiency in making oral presentations and in leading a group discussion.

Format of the class: Each student will prepare three presentations based on assigned readings of the chapters in the book, which could also incorporate additional relevant material (see section on *Further Readings* at the end of each chapter). The schedule of presentations is given below. The other students in the class are responsible for reading the chapters and participating fully in the post-presentation discussion. Presentations may include appropriate visual aids, but visual aids are not a requirement. Students not making presentations will fill out evaluation forms for the presentation based on the information given in the "Speech Qualities" material considered during the first few weeks. I will grade the evaluations (i.e. how well you evaluated each speaker). I will also do my own evaluations. My evaluations and the classes will form the basis for your grade in the class.

Grading: Final grades will be determined as follows:

Presentations: 75%
Class participation: 25%

Tentative Schedule

DATE	TOPIC	LEADER(S); Presentation Type
Aug. 24	Introduction, Course business	Laws
Aug. 31	Public Speaking I	Laws
Sept. 07	LABOR DAY	N/A
Sept. 14	Public Speaking II	Laws
Sept. 21	Chapters 1 and 2	Students 1-5; Presentation Type 1
Sept. 28	Chapter 3	Students 6-11; Presentation Type 1
Oct. 05	FALL BREAK	N/A
Oct. 12	Chapter 4	Students 5-6; Presentation Type 2
Oct. 19	Chapter 5	Students 1-3; Presentation Type 2
Oct. 26	Chapter 6	Students 9-11; Presentation Type 2
Nov. 02	Chapter 7	Students 4, 7, 8; Presentation Type 2
Nov. 09	Chapter 8	Students TBA; Presentation Type 3
Nov. 16	Chapter 9	Students TBA; Presentation Type 3
Nov. 23	Chapter 10	Students TBA; Presentation Type 3
Nov. 30	Chapter 11	Students TBA; Presentation Type 3
Dec. 07	Chapter 12	Students TBA; Presentation Type 3

The final exam for this class is scheduled for Monday December 7 from 3:00-6:00 PM. We will meet on December 7 at 3:00 PM for about one hour to make up for the class that we will miss on September 7. We will not have a final exam.

Presentation Types:

Type 1 – 5 minute presentation with 4 minutes for question, comments and discussion. One, and only one, visual aid is allowed, but not required. No powerpoints permitted.

Type 2 – 10 minute presentation with 6 minutes for questions comments and discussion. PowerPoint slides allowed, maximum of 4 slides.

Type 3 – 15 minute presentation with 10 minutes for questions, comments, and discussion. PowerPoint required; maximum of 10 slides. Presentation should include additional material from source(s) other than the book.

Schedule of presentations and assigned pages from book

Date	Presentation #	Presentation Type	Page Numbers	Student #
Sept. 21	1	1	1-5	1
Sept. 21	2	1	7-10	2
Sept. 21	3	1	11-15 top	3
Sept. 21	4	1	15-18	4
Sept. 21	5	1	19-22	5
Sept. 28	6	1	26-30	6
Sept. 28	7	1	30-33	7
Sept. 28	8	1	33-36	8
Sept. 28	9	1	36-41	9
Sept. 28	10	1	41-44	10
Sept. 28	11	1	26-44 summary	11
Oct. 12	12	2	49-58	6
Oct. 12	13	2	58-65	5
Oct. 19	15	2	66-70	3
Oct. 19	16	2	71-75	2
Oct. 19	17	2	76-81	1
Oct. 26	18	2	84-91	11
Oct. 26	19	2	91-94	10
Oct. 26	20	2	84-94 summary	9
Nov. 02	21	2	96-102	8
Nov. 02	22	2	102-110	7
Nov. 02	23	2	110-116	4
Nov. 09	24	3	118-132	TBA
Nov. 09	25	3	132-141	TBA
Nov. 16	26	3	142-150	TBA
Nov. 16	27	3	150-161	TBA
Nov. 23	28	3	163-170	TBA
Nov. 23	29	3	171-182	TBA
Nov. 30	30	3	184-193	TBA
Nov. 30	31	3	194-203	TBA
Dec. 07	32	3	204-212	TBA
Dec. 07	33	3	212-226	TBA
Dec. 07	34	3	1-226 summary	TBA