

Research Design and Scientific Presentations - EARTH 6300

Prerequisite: Registered graduate student in the Department of Earth Sciences

Instructors: John Gosse (LSC 4617, phone 494-6632, john.gosse@dal.ca) and Mladen Nedimovic (LSC 3054, phone 494-4524, e-mail: mladen@dal.ca)

Focus: Preparing and presenting a short research (thesis) proposal, using a format based on NSERC Discovery Grant proposals

Components of the Class:

The class meets for ~4 hours every 3 weeks. Most "in class" time is spent on research design, related topics such as critical reading and error analysis, and on student presentations of the various components of their proposals. Limited instruction in effective writing and presentation will be given in class, with extensive written feedback from your instructors and classmates on oral and written assignments

Participation: 10%

Attendance, discussions, departmental seminars, preparedness

Students are required to attend departmental seminars

Students are strongly encouraged to attend thesis summary presentations

Assignments: 25%

Class presentations and drafts of research proposals

Written work evaluated by JCG and MRN; some peer assessment for presentations and specific written assignments; late assignments will be penalized unless prior permission obtained

Feasibility of Proposed Research: 10%

A 20-minute formal presentation to committee members and JCG and MRN early after December break, emphasizing the feasibility of the proposed research

Formal Research Proposal : 30%

Formal proposal (NSERC style) handed in at the end of March

Written proposal evaluated by JCG&MRN/supervisor/one other qualified reader

Research Proposal Presentation: 25%

Presented at a departmental Mini-Symposium in mid-April

Presentations assessed by all those present at Mini-Symposium; effectiveness of presentation and understanding of material are equally important

PASSMARKS: Minimum B- for any graduate student (~65%)

Minimum B+ for any Ph.D. student (~75%)

Minimum B+ for any M.Sc. student seeking transfer to Ph.D.

Course must be passed in order to continue in the graduate program; It can be repeated once