

12:029 First-Year Seminar (1 s.h.) - Fall 2012

Instructor: Dr. David W. Peate (office: B21B Trowbridge Hall)
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office hours: Tu 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm, Wed 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm, & by appointment.

Class meetings:

Thursdays 4:00 to 4:50 in room 231, Trowbridge Hall (Department of Geoscience).

Required materials: "Meteorites" by Smith/Russell/Benedix (ISBN-10: 1554075157).

Available at University Book Store, in the Old Capitol Mall.

Course aims and goals: The aim of this first-year seminar class is to introduce new students to the intellectual life of the University in a small classroom environment through discussion participation, projects, and other interactive assignments. In this class, we will discuss:

1. how the study of meteorites helps scientists understand the origins of the Solar System and the formation of the planets, and 2. how major meteorite impacts on the Earth's surface have had significant effects on the Earth's environment through geologic time, including the extinction of the Dinosaurs. Students will learn about Iowa's own Manson impact crater and how to recognize the different types of meteorites using a recently donated meteorite collection. They will also do several computer-based activities: using Google Earth to investigate distinct features of different impact craters around the world, and using a web-based computer program to model the effects of meteorite impacts under different conditions (size of meteorite, distance from impact). We will use the book "Meteorites" by Smith / Russell / Benedix, plus some additional readings, as the basis for weekly discussions. A scientific background is not necessary for this class, and the material will be accessible to entering college students.

Amount of work expected:

The College guideline is that one semester hour of credit is equivalent to three hours of work (class time + out-of-class preparation) each week over the course of the semester. In this class, one hour of class discussion a week will require two hours of outside preparation for class. This standard is the basis for the Registrar's Office assignment of credit hours for courses.

Attendance: Attendance is expected for every class.

Drop/Add: Drop/Add should be done in the University-required time frame (first two weeks).

Grades: Letter grades will be based on attendance and active participation in class activities and discussions (demonstrating that assigned readings were done) and a final short research project paper. Plus/minus grades will be used.

ICON: All course information can be found on the course ICON web site (<http://icon.uiowa.edu>).

Students with disabilities: The instructors need to hear from anyone who has a disability, which may require some modification of seating, testing or other class requirements so that appropriate arrangements may be made. Please contact us during our office hours or make an appointment to meet with us and your teaching assistant as soon as possible.

General Concerns: If you have questions or concerns about this class or any other, feel free to come speak to me during my office hours, or make an appointment to come see me. If there is anything that you feel will affect your performance in this class, including but not limited to disabilities, please let me know as soon as possible so that I may accommodate your concerns if possible. Student complaints about the instructors should be made in accordance with procedures listed in the Student Academic Handbook (www.clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook/).

If the University is closed during our class time for any reason, you are responsible for checking the class ICON homepage for immediate updates.

I reserve the right to modify this syllabus and/or course policies as the semester progresses.

Any changes will be presented in class and on ICON announcements.

Department of Geoscience Syllabus Information:

Department Office: 121 Trowbridge Hall
Department Chair (DEO): Prof. M.K. Reagan
DEO Telephone: 319-335-1820

Telephone: 319-335-1818
DEO Office: 121C TH
DEO Email: geology-deo@uiowa.edu

Administrative Home

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is the administrative home of this course and governs matters such as the add/drop deadlines, the second-grade-only option, and other related issues. Different colleges may have different policies. Questions may be addressed to 120 Schaeffer Hall, or see the CLAS Academic Policies Handbook at <http://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook>.

Electronic Communication

University policy specifies that students are responsible for all official correspondences sent to their University of Iowa e-mail address (@uiowa.edu). Faculty and students should use this account for correspondences. (*Operations Manual*, [III.15.2](#). k.11.)

Accommodations for Disabilities

A student seeking academic accommodations should first register with Student Disability Services and then meet privately with the course instructor to make particular arrangements. See www.uiowa.edu/~sds/ for more information.

Academic Honesty

All CLAS students have, in essence, agreed to the College's Code of Academic Honesty: "I pledge to do my own academic work and to excel to the best of my abilities, upholding the IOWA Challenge. I promise not to lie about my academic work, to cheat, or to steal the words or ideas of others; nor will I help fellow students to violate the Code of Academic Honesty." Any student committing academic misconduct is reported to the College and placed on disciplinary probation or may be suspended or expelled ([CLAS Academic Policies Handbook](#)).

CLAS Final Examination Policies

The final examination schedule for each class is announced around the fifth week of the semester by the Registrar. Final exams are offered only during the official final examination period. No exams of any kind are allowed during the last week of classes. All students should plan on being at the UI through the final examination period. Once the Registrar has announced the dates and times of each final exam, the complete schedule will be published on the Registrar's web site.

Making a Suggestion or a Complaint

Students with a suggestion or complaint should first visit the instructor, then the course supervisor, and then the departmental DEO. Complaints must be made within six months of the incident ([CLAS Student Academic Handbook](#).)

Understanding Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment subverts the mission of the University and threatens the well-being of students, faculty, and staff. All members of the UI community have a responsibility to uphold this mission and to contribute to a safe environment that enhances learning. Incidents of sexual harassment should be reported immediately. See the UI [Comprehensive Guide on Sexual Harassment](#) for assistance, definitions, and the full University policy.

Reacting Safely to Severe Weather

In severe weather, class members should seek appropriate shelter immediately, leaving the classroom if necessary. The class will continue if possible when the event is over. For more information on Hawk Alert and the siren warning system, visit the Public Safety [web site](#).

Rights and responsibilities in the classroom

The College's statement on student rights and responsibilities can be found at: <http://www.clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook/x/>.
