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GEO 582.01: Topics in Structure and Geophysics

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GEO 582 01 Spring 2015
Jim Sears CHCB 362

This seminar course will investigate a recent hypothesis that the late Oligocene-early Miocene Colorado River ran north from Grand Canyon, through Montana, to the Labrador Sea (Sears, 2013).

Students will form teams of two to research different sites along the proposed route of the old riverbed from SW Montana to southern Nevada and Utah.

We will have a Spring Break field trip along the proposed route of the old riverbed and join Southern Utah University for a field conference in Caliente, Nevada, during the first week of April.

En route to Caliente, we will stop at key localities and the student teams will present their research findings on how the localities relate to the hypothesis. Students will also find/organize/ reserve appropriate campsites for the class along the route. We will camp out and cook dinners as a group, taking turns for camp duties.

Back in Missoula, the student teams will prepare posters for presentation at the UMCUR symposium. That happens soon after spring break, so students must be nearly finished with their research before the trip begins. They can count on getting some good field photos, etc., but should have their poster pretty well organized before we leave for the trip. Aaron Deskins has a good example of a poster outside his office. The posters will be printed by the Davidson Honors College, and they have a rigid schedule.

Abstracts for UMCUR are due fairly early in the semester, so we need to get organized as soon as possible.

We will meet weekly to discuss the hypothesis and research projects.

A booklet by Sears "When the Colorado River Ran North" is on sale at the UM Bookstore and is needed for the course.

Grades will be based on the abstract, field presentation, poster presentation, and class participation.