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### GEOL 555.01: Structure of the Crust

Steven D. Sheriff

University of Montana - Missoula, [steven.sheriff@umontana.edu](mailto:steven.sheriff@umontana.edu)

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## **Structure of the Crust, Spring 2002, 2 credits, Instructor -Sheriff**

This is a graduate class focussed on geophysical techniques pointed at determining the structure and nature of the middle and lower continental crust. Given that this is a very broad area of science we will constrain the focus of the class in part on your particular interests.

We will read and critically evaluate up to four papers out of the geophysical literature each week. Thus you will need to read each assigned paper very well, this cannot be done in 20 minutes per paper nor at the last minute. I expect you to get into the material beyond the assigned reading.

In general:

- You get to write a term paper on a topic of your choice. This can be an applied project, a programming exercise, or a research paper (<11 pages). We will use part of the meeting time during the last two weeks of the quarter for you to do a presentation/demo of your project.
- In addition to the paper/project there will be some sporadic problem sets, lab assignments, and a final exam. Although this is not an experimentally based class, we will work on some integrating projects by gathering and analyzing data from the literature.
- The class will be an active seminar with lots of discussion, questions, spontaneous contributions and a few "organized" lectures. The objective is to learn get a graduate level understanding of some of the techniques and results from geophysical applications aimed at determining the nature of the continental crust.
- There is no shortage of papers to read in the **Journal of Geophysical Research**, **Geophysical Journal of the Royal Astronomical Society**, and **Tectonics**.