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9-2003

GEOL 502.01: Graduate Research Project

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Recommended Citation

Thompson, Graham R., "GEOL 502.01: Graduate Research Project" (2003). *Syllabi*. 3487.

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Geology 502

Geology 502 is required of all first year graduate students. It is designed to guide your selection of a thesis project and preparation of a thesis proposal. We will meet as a group at the scheduled class time during the first week of the semester to discuss course requirements, procedures, and general guidelines for the design and completion of a thesis proposal. Following that organizational meeting, I will meet with each of you individually to work on your proposals until the proposals are finished. We will coordinate the research design and writing of the proposal with your thesis advisor.

In a nutshell, the course requirements are:

1. Submit to me a half-page description of the current state of your thesis plan by Tuesday, February 3rd. If you have not yet chosen a project/advisor, indicate your area(s) of interest. I will then meet individually with you to select an advisor and project. If you have already chosen a topic and advisor, meet with him or her to develop the research design and prepare a first draft of the thesis proposal. Have your advisor review and edit the proposal to her/his satisfaction.
2. Submit to me the draft of your thesis proposal, edited and accepted by your advisor, to me by February 17th. I will read the drafts during the following week, and return them to each of you with comments regarding project design, editing, and the scheduling of future tutorial meetings. From this point on we will develop the proposal jointly between you, your advisor, and me.
3. To pass the course, your thesis proposal must be submitted and acted upon by the faculty by the end of your second semester in residence

A file containing examples of successful proposals by recent M.S. and Ph.D. students is available from me or from Loreene in the main office.

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