



Course Syllabus and Instructor Information

1. **General Information:**

Alpha-numeric codification: GEOL 4012
Course Title: Seminar in Geology
Meeting days and time: Wednesday 4:30 – 5:20 PM
Course Location: Physics Bldg. F-201
Contact Period: 1 hour of seminar per week.

2. **Professor information:**

Name: Ernesto X. Balay, M.S.,P.G.
Office: F-201 (Geology Dept., Physics Bldg.)
Phone: (787) 832-4040
e-mail: ernesto.balay@upr.edu

Office Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays
9:30-10:30 / 1:30-3:30PM

*Other hours available by
appointment only

3. **Course Description:**

-Class presentation and discussion of selected topics in geology.

4. **Pre/Co-requisites and other requirements:**

-None

5. **Course Objectives:**

- Develop the oral presentation skills of the undergraduate students. Emphasis will be given to the effective methods of oral communication and the abilities of the students to provide feedback to others.
- Students will also read, discuss and criticize a number of recent geoscience articles or presentations.

6. **Instructional Strategies:**

- Presentation
- Discussion

7. **Requirements:**

All students are expected to:

- (1) Attend the seminar all the time and on time.
- (2) Give the presentation assigned.
- (3) Be prepared to participate by discussing and providing feedback to fellow students.
- (4) Check your e-mail (@upr.edu) all the time, for messages about the course.

8. Course time frame and thematic outline (*subject to change*)

Week	Date	Topic
1	W: 29 Jan	Introduction to course.
2	W: 5 Feb	Group Discussion I
3	W: 12 Feb	Group Discussion II
4	W: 19 Feb	Presentations
5	W: 26 Feb	Presentations
6	W: 4 Mar	Presentations
7	W: 11 Mar	Presentations
8	W: 18 Mar	Group Discussion III
9	W: 26 Mar	Group Discussion IV
10	W: 1 Apr	Presentations
11	W: 15 Apr	Presentations
12	W: 22 Apr	Presentations
13	W: 29 Apr	Presentations
14	W: 6 May	TBD
15	W: 13 May	TBD

9. Evaluation and grading (*subject to change*)

Grades will be based on the following:

- 10 %. Attendance – Students are required to attend all seminars
- 30 %. Papers (2) (summary, introduction, discussion, conclusions) 5 pp., 12pt, Times Roman, double space, GSA reference (5) format,
- 50 % Presentations (2)
- 10 % Participation in four (4) group discussions
- Total 100 %

10. Regulations and Policies:

- **Class attendance** is compulsory. The University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus, reserves the right to deal at any time with individual cases of non-attendance. Professors are expected to record the absences of their students. Frequent absences affect the final grade, and may even result in total loss of credits. Arranging to make up work missed because of legitimate class absence is the responsibility of the student (Bulletin of Information Undergraduate Studies).
- **Excuses from class or evaluations:** ONLY WRITTEN MEDICAL EXCUSES WILL BE ACCEPTED.
- **Policies on electronic devices:** Radios, tape recorders, and other audio or video equipment are not permitted in the classroom at any time. No cell phones are allowed to be in the ring mode during classes, neither students talking or sending messages with cell phones or other electronic device. The use of laptop computers during class is not allowed.
- **Plagiarism and Cheating:** Cooperative work is not permitted on the quizzes or examinations. Cheating will be dealt with harshly. *All instances of cheating on examinations will be immediately reported to the Dean of Arts and Sciences for review.* There will be no exceptions to this policy. Plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person's ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University.

11. **Law 51:** The Comprehensive Educational Services Act for People with disabilities states that after identifying with the instructor and the institution, the student with disabilities will receive reasonable accommodation in their courses and evaluations. For more information contact the Department of Counseling and Psychological services at the Office of the Dean of Students (Office DE 21) or call 787-265-3864 or 787-832-4040 x 3772, 2040 and 3864.

12. Sexual Harassment: Certification 130-2014-2015 states:

Sexual harassment in the workplace and in the study environment is an illegal and discriminatory act and is against the best interests of the University of Puerto Rico. All persons who understand they have been subject to acts of sexual harassment at the University of Puerto Rico may file a complaint and request that the institution investigate, where necessary, and assume the corresponding action by the university authorities. If the complainant is a student, he or she must refer his or her complaint to the Office of the Student Ombudsperson or that of the Dean of Students.

13. Certification 06-43 of the Academic Senate states, "The academic guidelines for offering online courses," defines:

Traditional face-to-face courses are those that have less than 25% of the course's regular contact hours via the Internet. Therefore, a three-credit course will be considered "face to face" if, of the 45 hours of regular contact, 11 or less are taught via the Internet.

The following should be included in all syllabi:

According to certification 16-43 of the Academic Senate, a course may include up to 25% of its total contact hours via the Internet.

The objective of this is so that all professors have this alternative in the case of any unscheduled eventuality.