Syllabus for GEOS 482/682 – Geosciences Seminar

1. Course Information:

- **Title:** Geosciences Seminar, Fall 2013
- **Number:** GEOS 482/682
- **Credits:** 1
- **Location:** Friday, 3:30-4:30pm: Reichardt 201
- **Course Information will be posted on Blackboard**

2. Instructor Information:

- **Name:** Franz J Meyer, Geophysical Institute, UAF
- **e-mail / phone:** fjmeyer@alaska.edu / 474-7767
- **Office:** WRRB 106D (office hours: ad-hoc/by appointment)

3. Course Description:

This course is a weekly seminar that exposes students to a wide range of topics within the geosciences and provides the students with information about UAF-based research activities.

4. Preliminary Course Calendar

Week	Date	Speaker	Presentation Title	GEOS 482 report due dates	GEOS 682 handout due dates
1:	9/06	Paul McCarthy / Sarah Fowell	"Blame Canada" – Introductory Remarks	---	---
2:	9/13	Peter Webley	Remote Sensing of Active Volcanoes: From the Ground to Space and Back	9/17	9/10
3:	9/20	Mike West	A tale of Earthquakes and Icequakes	9/24	9/17
4:	9/27	Mark Fahnestock	Observing Glacier-Ocean Interactions	10/01	9/24
5:	10/04	Grad. Students	Presentation on Field Work Experiences	---	---
6:	10/11	Guido Grosse	Optical Remote Sensing of Landscape Dynamics Resulting from Permafrost Thaw	10/15	10/08
7:	10/18	Sarah Fowell	TBD	10/22	10/15
8:	10/25	Jess Larsen	Experimental Volcanology: Vesiculation, Magma Fragmentation, and Eruption Style	10/29	10/22
9:	11/01	Matthew Sturm	Hidden Destruction and Rebirth: Early Season Snow Metamorphism in a Taiga Snow Cover	11/05	10/29
10:	11/08	Jeff Freymueller		11/12	11/08
11:	11/15	Cathy Cahill	When the World Comes to Alaska: The Long-Range Transport of Soils and Pollutants into Alaska	11/19	11/12
12:	11/22	Andy Mahoney	Learning to Look at Sea Ice Like a Walrus	11/26	11/19
13:	**Thanksgiving – no class**				

14:	12/06	Greg Walker		12/10	12/03
15:	12/13	TBD			

5. Course Materials:

- **Internet resources:** Students are expected to regularly check the course information on Blackboard for the latest instructions and updates.
- Journal articles or other materials assigned as reading will be available as PDFs through Blackboard.

6. Course Goals and main Learning Outcomes:

- to be exposed to a wide range of topics within geosciences
- to familiarize students with research being done at UAF (and outside)
- to develop skills for preparing for scientific seminars
- to develop skills for assessing scientific seminars
- to participate in scientific discussion with peers and faculty

7. Course Policies:

- **Attendance:**
  Each student is responsible for signing the attendance sheet for each seminar. Each student must attend 10 (out of 13) seminars in order to pass the course. A lower number than 10 may be allowed by the instructor for unavoidable/special/extreme circumstances, if the instructor determines that the circumstance truly merits an exception. Please contact instructor for prior approval. Graduate students (682) who qualify for these additional missed seminars will still need to hand in completed handouts.

- **Assignments (GEOS 482):**
  Students taking the course as 482 are required to submit a report on each seminar, due via email the Tuesday (23:00) after the seminar. The report should be a half page, single spaced. It should include the following:
  1) a summary of the scientific content of the seminar
  2) your assessment of the speaker's effectiveness in conveying the material
  3) at least two connections between material you have learned from classes (or outside classes) with the material presented in the seminar

- **Assignments (GEOS 682):**
  Students taking the course as 682 are required to submit a completed handout in preparation for each seminar. The handout is available on the class' Blackboard page. The handout is due via email Tuesday (23:00), three days before the seminar. These handouts, including questions for the speaker, will be sent to the speaker by Wednesday.
  Some speakers may request students to prepare for the seminar by reading some background material, which will be made available on Blackboard in advance. This material should be used to help students prepare for the seminar and for the following discussion.

- **No late assignments will be accepted**. However, GEOS 682 students will be partly evaluated based on participation in discussion, so it is still beneficial to prepare for each seminar, even if the handout is not turned in on time.

8. Grading Policy for GEOS 482:

- Attendance: 60%
- Summary reports: 40%

A	attend ≥ 10†seminars, complete ≥ 10 assignments, high-quality writing and critique
B	attend ≥ 10† seminars, complete ≥ 8 assignments, adequate writing and critique
C	attend ≥ 10† seminars, complete ≥ 6 assignments, adequate writing and critique
D	attend ≥ 10† seminars, little or no writing submitted
F	failure to attend 10† seminars

†see Course Policies above

9. Grading Policy for GEOS 682:

- Attendance: 60%
- Pre-seminar handouts: 30%
- Participation in discussion: 10%

A	attend ≥ 10† seminars, complete ≥ 10 handouts, high quality, active in discussion
B	attend ≥ 10† seminars, complete ≥ 8 handouts, moderate quality, active in discussion
C	attend ≥ 10† seminars, complete ≥ 6 handouts, moderate quality, inactive in discussion
D	attend ≥ 10† seminars, little or no handouts submitted, inactive in discussion
F	failure to attend 10† seminars

†see Course Policies above

10. Support Services.

The instructor is available by appointment for additional assistance outside session hours. UAF has many student support programs, including the Math Hotline (1-866-UAF-MATH; 1-866-6284) and the Math and Stat Lab in Chapman building (see www.uaf.edu/dms/mathlab/ for hours and details).

11. Disabilities Services:

The Office of Disability Services implements the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and it ensures that UAF students have equal access to the campus and course materials. The Department of Geology and Geophysics will work with the Office of Disability Services (203 WHIT, 474-7043) to provide reasonable accommodation to students with disabilities.