

Course Change Request

New Course Proposal

Date Submitted: 01/20/22 2:45 pm

Viewing: **GEOL 996 : Doctoral Reading and Research**

Last edit: 02/17/22 11:32 am

Changes proposed by: muhen

Programs referencing this course
[: Geology and Earth Sciences, PhD](#)

In Workflow

1. **AOES Chair**
2. **SC Curriculum Committee**
3. SC Associate Dean
4. Assoc Provost-Graduate
5. Registrar-Courses
6. Banner

Approval Path

1. 01/20/22 12:08 pm
Mark Uhen
(muhen): Rollback to Initiator
2. 01/31/22 2:28 pm
Mark Uhen
(muhen): Approved for AOES Chair

Are you completing this form on someone else's behalf?

No

Effective Term: Fall 2022

Subject Code: GEOL - Geology

Course Number: 996

Bundled Courses:

Is this course replacing another course? No

Equivalent Courses:

Catalog Title: Doctoral Reading and Research

Banner Title: Doctoral Reading and Research

Will section titles vary by semester? No

Credits: 1-6

Schedule Type: Research

Hours of Other Contact Hours per week: 1-6

Repeatable: May be repeated within term (RT)

Max Allowable Credits:

24

Default Grade Mode: Graduate Special

Recommended Prerequisite(s):

Recommended Corequisite(s):

Required Prerequisite(s) / Corequisite(s) (Updates only):

Registrar's Office Use Only - Required Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s):

And/Or	(Course/Test Code	Min Grade/Score	Academic Level)	Concurrency?

Registration Restrictions (Updates only):

Registrar's Office Use Only - Registration Restrictions:

Field(s) of Study:

Class(es):

Level(s):

Degree(s):

School(s):

Catalog Description:

Reading and research on a specific topic in geology and earth sciences under the direction of a faculty member.

Justification:

What: Creating a new course.

Why: This course will allow students to deeply explore and analyze a specialized topic with an individual faculty member that is not covered in any specific course.

Does this course cover material which crosses into another department? No

Learning Outcomes:

Students are expected to develop self-direction of their own learning and research by requesting the course from the instructor and developing the specific learning goals with the instructor.

Students are expected to develop a deep understanding of the topics covered in the course.

Attach Syllabus

[GEOL 996 Doctoral Reading & Research.pdf](#)

Additional Attachments

Staffing:

Individual students will request this course from individual faculty instructors.

Relationship to Existing Programs:

This course will only be available to students in the proposed Geology and Earth Sciences PhD program.

Relationship to Existing Courses:

Students will be advised to take this course after taking a majority of other needed courses for their degree.

Additional Comments:

Reviewer Comments

Mark Uhen (muhen) (01/20/22 12:08 pm): Rollback: Fix CLIM error

Key: 17504

GEOL 996 Doctoral Reading & Research

1-6 credits

Guidelines

Independent study courses are integral elements of a student's Ph.D. in Geology and Earth Sciences program. These are doctoral-level courses designed by a student with the advice of an instructor. They do not duplicate courses that exist as regular university course offerings.

All Ph.D. in Geology and Earth Sciences independent study courses must meet accepted standards of doctoral study and inquiry. Such courses should involve analysis, synthesis and/or evaluation of research, theory and/or exemplary practice in an area of inquiry or scholarship approved as part of the student's program of doctoral study. As a minimum, an independent study reading course must include a culminating project or paper, or other suitable product(s) which communicates the key learnings developed by the student.

To be applied to the student's program of doctoral study an independent study in any area of study must be approved in advance by the course instructor, student's faculty advisor and the Ph.D. in Geology and Earth Sciences Director. Courses not approved in advance by the prescribed deadlines will not be accepted as meeting Ph.D. in Geology and Earth Sciences program requirements.

An independent study course may be primarily a reading or a research course. Proposals for each of these kinds of independent study courses use the same cover sheet but differ in structure, as follows:

1. Readings course proposals should describe:
 - a. general theme or topic
 - b. relevance to the student's program
 - c. learning objectives to be achieved (listing what the student is to know or be able to do by the conclusion of the study)
 - d. learning activities to be undertaken or performed
 - e. procedure(s) to be followed
 - f. tentative reading list
 - g. paper(s), project(s), or other product(s) to be prepared
 - h. tutorial schedule to be followed
 - i. evaluation procedures
2. Research course proposals should describe:
 - a. goal of the research

- b. need/significance of the project
- c. background of the problem
- d. summary of previous related research
- e. schedule for completion of research
- f. any special sources to be consulted
- g. tutorial schedule with an instructor
- h. evaluation procedures
- i. research design
- j. problem/question (specific)
- k. hypotheses/questions
- l. data collection and analysis methods
- m. anticipated results
- n. types of interpretation sought
- o. limitations anticipated

Independent study courses are designed by a student with the advice of the course's potential instructor and, where appropriate, with the consultation of the student's doctoral program of study advisor. In addition, for each independent study course students must prepare a two to four page course proposal in accord with the guidelines presented here. Once approved and signed by the course's instructor-to-be, a signed copy of the proposal must be submitted to the student's doctoral advisor. Upon approval and signing by the advisor, the signed copy of the course proposal are submitted to the Ph.D. in Geology and Earth Sciences Director for final approval.

The due date for proposal submission is no later than the last day to add classes of the semester for which the student is registering.

Copies of all major written reports, final papers, etc. prepared for an independent study are to be included in the student's portfolio upon completion of the course.

Instructor Information

Each instance of this course will have a different instructor. Normally, this would be the student's dissertation advisor, but it does not necessarily need to be the dissertation advisor, particularly if the student wants to study a topic area in which a different faculty member has expertise.

Learning Outcomes

Students are expected to develop self-direction of their own learning and research by requesting the course from the instructor and developing the specific learning goals with the instructor.

Students are expected to develop a deep understanding of the topics covered in the course.

Course Structure

The first week the student and instructor will discuss potential topics and research goals for the term. Once determined, these will be written down and agreed to both by the student and instructor. This will include a reading list along with dates when each reading will be discussed. Research goals will be specific and designed to be accomplished by the student with the necessary resources in hand by the end of the term.

Assessment

Grades will be assigned by the instructor based on how well the student has achieved the agreed upon learning goals for the semester.

Student Responsibilities

This course operates under the rules of the [George Mason University Honor System and Code](#). Please be familiar with the code. Quizzes and exams are closed book and your answers must be your own.

Students are expected to be respectful of the instructor and each other during class. Demonstrate that respect by please, not talking out of turn during class, turning off your cell phone and instant messaging during class, and trying not to disturb class if you enter late or leave early.

If you are a student with a disability and you think that you need academic accommodations, contact the [Office of Disability Services](#) at 703-993-2472 or ods@gmu.edu immediately if you have not already done so. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office. You must then bring the accommodation recommendations to your instructor(s) immediately.