GG410 Undergraduate Seminar Fall 2013
Lecture: M 1:30 – 3:30 PM POST 723
Text: No textbook. Course reading and resources will be posted on the Laulima course site.
Instructor: Greg Ravizza, POST 712, 956-2916, ravizza@hawaii.edu
Office hours: Monday 3:30 - 4:30 PM, Wednesday 2:30 -3:30 PM, and by appointment.

Prerequisites: An introductory geology course (GG101 or comparable) and an introductory geology lab (GG101L or comparable). The GG lab may be taken concurrently, but this is not encouraged.

Course content and its relationship to student learning objectives (SLOs): The purpose of this course is to give GG undergraduate majors experience in giving oral presentations. The course meets two hours per week. In the beginning of the semester the course covers the basic aspects of preparing and presenting a talk (good speaking style, good slide layout, how to introduce a speaker, how to write an abstract for your talk, etc.). Most of the semester consists of the students presenting talks they have prepared themselves. Following student presentations the presenter(s) receive both verbal and written feedback from the instructor and their peers. Students are given the opportunity to identify topics they will speak about contingent upon instructor approval. The primary SLO this course aims to satisfy is SLO #4 (Students can reconstruct, clearly and ethically, geological knowledge in both oral presentations and written reports.) Specifically the emphasis is on oral presentations. Other SLOs are commonly addressed as students prepare their talks. Almost without exception each student prepares and presents presentations that are related to SLO #1 (Students can explain the relevance of geology and geophysics to human needs, including those appropriate to Hawaii, and be able to discuss issues related to geology and its impact on society and planet Earth.) and SLO #5 (Students can evaluate, interpret, and summarize the basic principles of geology and geophysics, including the fundamental tenets of the sub-disciplines, and their context in relationship to other core sciences, to explain complex phenomena in geology and geophysics.)

Grading: As a designated 2 credit “O” focus course at least 60% of the course grade must be based upon. A detailed break down of grading is presented with the assignments outlined at the end of the syllabus.

Attendance: Attendance will be taken regularly and is included in your grade. If you need to miss class you need a reason that is acceptable to the instructor to be given in advance. Medical emergencies are always an acceptable reason to miss class when documented by health care provider.

Schedule: A detailed course schedule cannot be finalized until the number of enrolled student is set. The larger the number of students, the larger is the proportion of class time that must be dedicated to student presentations.
**Presentation 1:** Students are required to convey conceptual content they are already familiar with in a style suitable for a non-expert audience. The subject of these presentations is based upon prior GG course work. The presentation time is 10 minutes and the format/style is a lecture type venue. The unique emphasis of this assignment is on clear and effective presentation of content that is largely objective (part of a body of accepted understanding). (10% of course grade)

*Preparative work in advance of presentation:* For this assignment there are three elements of prior preparation: Instructor lecture on public speaking; Viewing video clips of science oriented presentations (unrelated to GG410) the are freely available on the internet. In class discussion of presentation content with an emphasis aim on developing effective visual aids to convey conceptual content.

*Student Feedback:* For this assignment feedback on content and organization will be given to the group as a whole. Feedback on individual presentations will concentrate on individual delivery style. These comments will be given to each student via Laulima posting. They will take the form of a tally of strengths and weaknesses of each students presentation style; identifying areas where the students should work to improve. The expectation for this assignment is that if students participate and make a good effort they will receive full credit.

**Presentation 2:** Students are required to make a persuasive presentation related to environmental and geologic aspects of energy policy. Here students are expected to use data from the public domain to support their position and critique opposing views. Again the length of each presentation will be 10 minutes. (20% of course grade)

*Preparative work in advance of presentation:* For this assignment student presentations will be evaluated by the instructor prior to their presentations in small group meetings with the instructor. The purpose of this meeting is to help the students refine their arguments and organization prior to the in class presentation. In addition there will be lecture content that covers different types of oral communication, and the need to have a clear understanding of both the objective of the presentation and the background of the audience.

*Student Feedback:* For this assignment feedback after the oral presentation will come in two forms. First, students will receive written evaluation from the instructor with individual sub-scores for: (1) Delivery of presentation (30% of assignment). (2) Quality and accuracy of content (30% of assignment). (3) Organization and quality of visual aids (30% of assignment). (4) Response to questions and depth of knowledge (10% of assignment). Second, students will receive a written summary evaluation of their presentation from their peers. This summary will be part of the “summarizing student’s” graded work.

**Presentation 3:** (Includes a practice talk and final class presentation.) Students are required to prepare a twelve minute presentation on an Earth Science-related topic of
their choice. The class will be split into three or four groups in which the students will work together with the instructor listening to one another’s practice talks. After all students in each group have given practice talks, the whole class will assemble and listen to all students final presentations. (40% of course grade; 10% practice talk & 30% final presentation).

*Preparative work in advance of presentation:* As noted above for the final presentation students will present practice talks to the instructor and a sub-set of the class in advance of the final presentation. Students will also receive comments on presentation files (likely power point) from the instructor in advance of the final presentation.

*Student Feedback:* For this assignment feedback after the practice oral presentation will get verbal feedback from their peers and a written list of suggestions from the instructor for improving the talks. After the final presentation students will receive written evaluation from the instructor with individual sub-scores for: (1) Delivery of presentation (30% of assignment). (2) Quality and accuracy of content(30% of assignment). (3) Organization and quality of visual aids (30% of assignment). (4) Response to questions and depth of knowledge (10% of assignment).

**Other assignments:**

**Outside Critique of Oral Presentations:** Written evaluation of 3 “outside” talks such as departmental seminars and graduate student presentations. (10%).

**Review of Presentations Made by Peers:** Written evaluations of presentations made by fellow students in the GG410 course. (10%)

**Class Engagement/Participation:** Based upon attendance, attentiveness and participation in the course. (10%)