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**Grading:** Several factors contribute to the final grade for your senior thesis exercise, including how successful you are in completing each stage of your project, your ability to meet deadlines, your participation in departmental senior thesis meetings, the sophistication of your data

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**Senior Thesis Schedule of “Events”:**

**Fall Semester, 2015**

- 1) **Wednesday, 9/9, 4pm** - In this first meeting, all Geology seniors and faculty gather in room 136 to discuss the special demands and activities of the senior year. Topics discussed in this meeting include:
  - a) Elucidating the finer points and answering questions regarding the senior thesis,
  - b) Discussing graduate school application procedures and requesting letters of recommendation, both for grad schools and jobs,
  - c) Discussing job searches.
  
- 2) **Monday 9/21, 5 p.m.** - Submit<sup>2</sup> a digital one to two page proposal for your thesis project. You should work in consultation with your primary advisor to ensure that you present a well-defined project of sufficient depth (yet still manageable) to comprise a significant, new piece of work. Library theses will require an in-depth \_\_\_\_\_ of the literature, not just a book report/review of the literature. This document must be typed and grammatically correct. Your proposal should include:
  - a) The title of your proposed thesis,
  - b) A description of the objectives of your thesis project (i.e. what is the scientific question/hypothesis?),
  - c) A description of the significance of this project (i.e. what is the significance of your scientific question?),
  - d) How you intend to accomplish these objectives (include a description of what you have done, to date, to accomplish these objectives),
  - e) A list of funding supporting, or anticipated to be required to support, any aspect of your project (e.g. Keck Geology Consortium, Sigma Xi, Pomona SURP, etc.).

The geology faculty will review all proposals and your primary advisor will return it to you with comments within a week. Students are commonly asked to revise and resubmit proposals to ensure that you have a well-defined and articulated proposal. A well-defined project proposal is the first step toward proceeding with your project successfully. You may modify your goals (or append new ones) as new results develop in your research.

- 3) **Monday, 9/28, 5 p.m.** – Turn in a PowerPoint file with a single slide for your project. This is intended to go on the Geology department web page. Your slide should include your working title, your name, what you are doing, and your primary question (and acknowledge funding sources). It should also include some graphic to fire the imagination (a photo from your field area, a map, a graph, etc.). If you do include a graphic and it is not your original work, you must cite the source of your graphic. Include an acknowledgment of any funding received in support of your thesis work. See the senior thesis research page from the Pomona

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<sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_, 11 \_\_\_\_\_, 1.5 \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_, 1 \_\_\_\_\_ . L N P . ( . . , P . ).

Geology web site for examples of these files. Your file should be called something obvious (e.g. LastName\_Slide).

- 4) **Friday, 10/30, 5 p.m.** – Submit<sup>3</sup> a digital 2 page progress report on your thesis. Specify what you have done with your research to date, what you have learned from the research, and what you intend yet to do. Attach a complete list of references for your project, using the format in the journal (you may continue to add references as your project progresses). Attach preliminary maps, graphs, cross-sections, data tables, etc.<sup>4</sup> Describe any significant problems that have arisen, and how you are addressing them. If the focus of the research has changed owing to unforeseen difficulties or new discoveries, please specify these changes and how you intend to pursue your new goals.

In addition to evaluating formally the progress that you've made on your project, we will also informally evaluate:

- a) Mechanics of the paper (grammar, spelling, etc.),
- b) Flow of the paper (inter- and intra-paragraph),
- c) Content (accuracy and logic of the scientific argument or critical analysis, etc.),
- d) Sophistication of the scientific argument/critical analysis (analysis beyond a mere presentation of the “facts”),
- e) Adherence to guidelines (proper reference style, etc.).

These are things we will be evaluating formally in all subsequent written submittals. Your faculty advisor will review your progress report and return it to you with comments (written and oral) within a week.

- 5) **Tuesday and Thursday, 11/10 and 11/12 (11:00-12:15) dates/times may change.** – Public presentations of senior research projects and progress; all Geology seniors are required to attend. Each senior must come prepared to give a ~12 minute presentation on his/her thesis work. PowerPoint may be used (but the file must be given to the Geology Technician at least 30 minutes prior to the start of the meeting), maps and rock samples may be shown, etc. This presentation should include: your science question/hypothesis, its relevance, your methods to address the question, and your progress to-date. Presentations should essentially duplicate what is embodied in the progress reports submitted earlier.

. This meeting will be open to the public.

- 6) **Wednesday, 11/25, 3 p.m.**- Submit<sup>5</sup> a digital copy of the Introduction, Methods, and References sections of your thesis, as well as a detailed outline of the remaining sections of your thesis. These should be professional presentations of what you feel is the best work you

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submissions with certain characteristics. An individual submission may have characteristics from several grade ranges; the faculty will consider the merits of each when determining the grade.

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- 7) **At the end of the semester, the Geology faculty will discuss the progress of each Senior thesis student. Students will receive a grade of "N" on their grade thesis submitted. In the spring semester, the grade for your thesis will be**

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**11) Thursday, April 28 afternoon (tentative)** - The final step is the senior presentation, to be given following submission of your corrected thesis. Please note that these presentations are formal, and must be delivered in a professional manner. You will also produce and present a poster on your thesis that will hang in the department for the next year. Guidelines for the presentations will be provided at a later date (to be provided in late March/early April).

The Senior Thesis presentations this year are likely to be held in an appropriate space within the Edmunds Building. The presentations are open to all interested persons from within and outside the department. Neat, professional attire is required! We socialize around the posters afterwards to celebrate your success, with refreshments provided.