

Geology 498: Senior Honors Thesis

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We will spend time during each seminar period discussing readings, exploring writing and figure examples, and co-writing or doing peer review. For weeks with a linked document below, you are expected to read that document before the seminar. For weeks highlighted in blue, you should come with the assigned written product ready for discussion and/or peer review.

Semester Breakdown:

W1	Self-inventory, project mapping, writing calendar, and advisor meetings
W2	The opening and the challenge (Schimel Ch. 4: pp 26-34)
W3	Citations and citation managers
W4	How to identify, read, and evaluate scientific literature
W5	<i>Peer Review – opening (paragraphs), funnel (bullets), challenge (sentences)</i>
W6	Methods, data and data access, and code preservation (i.e., open science)
W7	Tables, figures, and captions
W8	<i>Adobe Illustrator Intro + Figure Work Time</i>
W9	Abstracts
W10	<i>Peer Review – GSA Abstracts</i>
W11	Structural elements for focused revision (Schimel pp 95-122)
W12	<i>Peer Review -- Introduction</i>
Thanksgiving Break	
W13/14	Holidays and J-term Planning, self-inventory discussion, and project mapping (Take 2)
	Introduction due to your advisor!!

Follow-On Activities to Geology 498 in the spring:

1. How to design a poster and give an effective poster presentation (1 hour)
2. How to give an effective oral presentation (1 hour)

Useful Books and Links:

- Writing Reference: “Writing Science: How to write papers that get cited and proposals that get funded”, Joshua Schimel
- Amherst Thesis Requirements: https://www.amherst.edu/academiclife/registrar/for-students/thesis_guide
- Zotero Guide: <https://libguides.amherst.edu/citation/zotero>