

COURSE OUTLINE—GLG 358—Fall 2010

WRITING ASSIGNMENTS:

1. Topic: "Why I Decided to Become a Geologist"
Emphasis: Organization of thoughts, mechanics of writing, format
Length: 500-750 words (2 pages)
Point Value: 50
2. Topic: Geology of a specific location (chosen by student from GSA Centennial Field Guide Series)
Emphasis: Finding recent references to a particular geologic topic in the technical literature using the online bibliography and index *GeoRef*; extracting, organizing and integrating information from multiple sources without plagiarizing; citing references according to the GSA/USGS format
Length: 1000-1500 words (3-5 pages)
Point Value: 100
3. Topic: Feature article from *Earth* magazine with Public Affairs implications
Emphasis: Finding information about a geologic topic within the popular media; comparing and contrasting presentations from popular versus technical sources; quoting sources
Length: 1000-1500 words (3-5 pages)
Point Value: 150
4. Topic: Resume and two cover letters
Length: Resume: 2 pages; each cover letter: 1 page
Point Value: 100
5. Topic: Current understanding about a specific geologic process (chosen by student from pre-2000 editions of Annual Reviews of Earth and Planetary Science)
Emphasis: Finding current references to a particular non-location-specific topic using *GeoRef*, proper use of headings and subheadings, introduction and conclusions, illustrations
Length: 1500-2000 words (5-8 pages)
Point Value: 150
6. Topic: Abstract of an article published in *Geology*
Emphasis: The art of abstracting
Length: 100-150 words
Point Value: 100

GRAMMAR/EDITING ASSIGNMENTS:

1. Topic: Grammatical and structural analysis of individual sentences from a *GSA Today* article
Emphasis: Mechanics of writing good sentences
Point Value: 50
2. Topic: Grammatical and structural analysis of individual sentences from a *GSA Bulletin* article
Emphasis: Mechanics of writing good sentences
Point Value: 100
3. Topic: Edited revision of Writing Assignment #2
Emphasis: Mechanics of writing (grammar, sentence structure, punctuation, paragraph organization)
Point Value: 100
4. Topic: Comparison of GSA/USGS, APA, MLA, and Chicago formats
Point Value: 100
5. Topic: Edited and abstracted revision of Writing Assignment #5
Emphasis: Editing, proofreading, abstracting, and "putting it all together"
Point Value: 200

ORAL PRESENTATIONS:

1. Topic: Same as Writing Assignment #2
Length: 5-8 minutes
Illustrated with no more than three jpeg images (maps, cross sections, etc.; no text)
Point Value: 50

2. Topic: Same as Writing Assignment #3
Length: 5-8 minutes
No visual aids
Point Value: 100

3. Topic: Same as Writing Assignment #5
Length: 10-12 minutes
Illustrated with PowerPoint
Point Value: 150