Boise State University  
Foundational Studies Program Course Application Form  
Due to the Foundational Studies Program by August 19, 2011

*After the Foundational Studies Program has approved a course, departments will continue through the regular department and college procedures. The approved course should be submitted to the University Curriculum Committee by October 1, 2011.*

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**Instructions:**

1. Complete one form per course.  
2. Attach this Foundational Studies Course Application Form to the back of the University Curriculum Committee “Request for Curriculum Action” form. Both forms should be submitted to the Foundational Studies Program Office by August 19, 2011.

**Part I. Course Information**

Course Number and Title: **GEOS 242: Communication in the Earth Sciences**

Type of Foundational Studies Course – (Choose One):

- [ ] DLS (Disciplinary Lens – Social Science)  
- [ ] DLL (Disciplinary Lens – Literature and Humanities)  
- [ ] DLV (Disciplinary Lens – Visual and Performing Arts)  
- [ ] DLM (Disciplinary Lens – Mathematics)  
- [ ] DLN (Disciplinary Lens – Natural, Physical, and Applied Sciences)  
  - Includes Lab: [ ] Yes [ ] No  
- [x] CID (Communication in the Discipline)  
- [ ] FF (Finishing Foundations)

Delivery Format(s) – (Check all that apply):

- [x] Face to Face  
- [ ] Fully Online  
- [ ] Hybrid  
- [ ] Concurrent Enrollment  
- [ ] Other (briefly describe):
Part II. Syllabus Statement

Boise State's Foundational Studies Program provides undergraduates with a broad-based education that spans the entire university experience. GEOS 242 satisfies 3 credits of the Foundational Studies Program's Communication in the Discipline requirements. It supports the following University Learning Outcomes, along with a variety of other course-specific goals.

ULO 1. Write effectively in multiple contexts for a variety of audiences
ULO 2. Communicate effectively in speech, both as a speaker and listener
ULO 3. Engage in effective critical inquiry by defining problems, gathering and evaluating evidence, and determining the adequacy of argumentative discourse.

GEOS 242: Communications in the Earth Sciences is designed to help achieve the goals of the Foundational Studies Program by focusing on the following course learning outcomes.

After successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

- Use written and oral communication to convey concepts and ideas in Geosciences effectively in a variety of common professional formats (written abstracts, reports, and papers; oral presentation of posters).
- Distinguish between observations (data) and interpretations (ideas), and present them clearly in scientific communication
- Critically evaluate, edit, and revise drafts written by yourself and others to improve organization, logic, and clarity
- Search and engage existing scientific literature and appropriately cite such literature in your communications using commonly accepted methods of reference
- Communicate more clearly and accurately through improved organization, structure of paragraphs and sentences, grammar, and word choice.
- Listen effectively, analyze, discuss and respond thoughtfully to oral presentations of scientific material

Part III. Design for Accessibility

In the space below, briefly describe plans for providing access to course materials and activities (or equivalent alternatives) to all students in adherence with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Although these plans may vary from instructor to instructor, the descriptions provided below should be representative of intended departmental and instructor practices. (See example statements appended to this form.)

GEOS 242: Communications in the Earth Sciences: All posted pdf reading assignments will be checked for readability by a screen reader. (The department will ask Academic Technologies to help with a review of these electronic materials, as needed.) PowerPoint presentations used in class lectures, insofar as they contain graphs or other visual representations of content, will be verbally described to students on an as-needed basis. Extra time on tests, oral examinations, or other accommodations will be provided to students as needed per the policies of the Disability Resource Center.

Part IV. Evidence of Quality Course Design
Please use the table below (column headings for this table should not be changed) to provide evidence that the course has been carefully designed and is clearly aligned with Foundational Studies Program desired ULOs. All sections of the course should share similar student learning outcomes. Teaching and Learning Activities and Assessment Methods may vary from instructor to instructor. Please use the table to report representative strategies that may be used. Assessment activities used for reporting to the Foundational Studies Program should be consistent across different sections of the course.

Please see below.
Boise State University
Foundational Studies Course
Spring 2014

Course Number and Title: GEOS 242: Communication in the Earth Sciences

Course Design Table
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Foundation ULO 1 &amp; 2 Criteria</th>
<th>Foundation ULO 1 &amp; 2 Notions of Exemplary Work</th>
<th>Course Learning Outcomes: By the end of this course, each student should be able to…</th>
<th>Assessment Method: Evidence of Student Learning</th>
<th>Planned Teaching &amp; Learning Activities / Pedagogy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ULO 1.1-1.6: Write effectively</td>
<td>* Focuses narrowly on a clear purpose</td>
<td>* Write communication to convey data and ideas in Geosciences effectively in a variety of common professional formats (abstracts, reports, and journal articles).</td>
<td>* Quality of participation in the weekly in-class discussions and group analysis of example writing (sentences, passages, and paragraphs chosen to highlight different types of problems and possible ways to fix them).</td>
<td>* Weekly in-class discussions and group analysis of example writing problems and possible ways to fix them (sentences, passages, and paragraphs chosen to highlight different types of problems).</td>
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<td></td>
<td>* Adopts an appropriate voice, tone, &amp; level of formality</td>
<td>* Critically evaluate, edit, and revise drafts written by yourself and others to improve organization, logic, and clarity</td>
<td>* Grading of weekly in-class assignments involving analysis and revision of example sentences, passages, paragraphs, abstracts, figures, and reports.</td>
<td>* Weekly in-class assignments involving analysis and revision of example sentences, passages, paragraphs, abstracts, figures, and reports.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>* Uses the text conventions of writing in a field professionally</td>
<td>* Search and engage existing scientific literature and appropriately cite such literature in your communications using commonly accepted methods of reference</td>
<td>* Assessment and evaluation of a comprehensive term report in terms of: 1) overall quality, 2) successful incorporation of feedback, and 3) improvement during progressive writing of a rough draft, revision, and final draft of the report.</td>
<td>* Assignments in which students are given a published work and asked to identify, distinguish, and critically evaluate: (1) the purpose of the paper, (2) data and observations, and (3) interpretations or ideas presented</td>
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<td></td>
<td>* Evaluates &amp; synthesizes ideas from sources well; documents sources</td>
<td>* Improves across series of drafts that are the result of drafting, revising and editing in response to feedback</td>
<td>* Comparison of initial and final performance of individual students on a non-graded quiz covering course material given on the first day and last day of the class</td>
<td>* Lecture format presentations covering report organization, paragraph and sentence structure, grammar, word choice, construction of figures and tables, methods of searching literature, etc.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>* Controls mechanical features such as syntax, grammar</td>
<td>* Communicate more clearly and accurately through improved organization, structure of paragraphs and sentences, grammar, and word choice.</td>
<td>* Comparison of initial and final performance of individual students on a non-graded quiz covering course material given on the first day and last day of the class</td>
<td>* Lecture format presentations covering report organization, paragraph and sentence structure, grammar, word choice, construction of figures and tables, methods of searching literature, etc.</td>
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**Foundation ULO 1 & 2**

**Notions of Exemplary Work**

**Course Learning Outcomes:**
By the end of this course, each student should be able to...

**Assessment Method:**
Evidence of Student Learning

**Planned Teaching & Learning Activities / Pedagogy**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>ULO 1.7-1.10: Write in multiple contexts</strong></th>
<th><strong>Notions of Exemplary Work</strong></th>
<th><strong>Course Learning Outcomes:</strong></th>
<th><strong>Assessment Method:</strong></th>
<th><strong>Planned Teaching &amp; Learning Activities / Pedagogy</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>* Uses genres appropriate to the discipline</td>
<td>* Use written communication to convey data and ideas in Geosciences effectively in a variety of common professional formats (abstracts, reports, and journal articles).</td>
<td>* Quality of participation in the weekly in-class discussions and group analysis of example writing (sentences, passages, and paragraphs chosen to highlight different types of problems and possible ways to fix them).</td>
<td>* Grading of weekly in-class assignments involving analysis and revision of example sentences, passages, paragraphs, abstracts, figures, and reports.</td>
<td>* Weekly in-class discussions and group analysis of example writing problems and possible ways to fix them (sentences, passages, and paragraphs chosen to highlight different types of problems).</td>
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<td>* Responds well to the needs of different rhetorical situations</td>
<td>* Critically evaluate, edit, and revise drafts written by yourself and others to improve organization, logic, and clarity</td>
<td>* Grading of weekly in-class assignments involving analysis and revision of example sentences, passages, paragraphs, abstracts, figures, and reports.</td>
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<td>* Uses wide variety of resources to locate sources</td>
<td>* Search and engage existing scientific literature and appropriately cite such literature in your communications using commonly accepted methods of reference</td>
<td>* Assessment and evaluation of a comprehensive term report in terms of: 1) overall quality, 2) successful incorporation of feedback, and 3) improvement during progressive writing of a rough draft, revision, and final draft of the report.</td>
<td>* Grading of weekly in-class assignments involving analysis and revision of example sentences, passages, paragraphs, abstracts, figures, and reports.</td>
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<td>* Exploits wide range of communication strategies appropriate to contexts (including electronic ones)</td>
<td>* Communicate more clearly and accurately through improved organization, structure of paragraphs and sentences, grammar, and word choice.</td>
<td>* Comparison of initial and final performance of individual students on a non-graded quiz covering course material given on the first day and last day of the class.</td>
<td>* Grading of weekly in-class assignments involving analysis and revision of example sentences, passages, paragraphs, abstracts, figures, and reports.</td>
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* Lecture format presentations covering report organization, paragraph and sentence structure, grammar, word choice, construction of figures and tables, methods of searching literature, etc.
| ULO 1.11: Write for a variety of audiences | * Responds well to the needs of different audiences  
* Addresses professionally the expectations of disciplinary audiences | * Use written communication to convey data and ideas in Geosciences effectively in a variety of common professional formats (abstracts, reports, and journal articles).  
* Critically evaluate, edit, and revise drafts written by yourself and others to improve organization, logic, and clarity  
* Search and engage existing scientific literature and appropriately cite such literature in your communications using commonly accepted methods of reference  
* Communicate more clearly and accurately through improved organization, structure of paragraphs and sentences, grammar, and word choice. | * Quality of participation in the weekly in-class discussions and group analysis of example writing (sentences, passages, and paragraphs chosen to highlight different types of problems and possible ways to fix them).  
* Grading of weekly in-class assignments involving analysis and revision of example sentences, passages, paragraphs, abstracts, figures, and reports.  
* Assessment and evaluation of a comprehensive term report in terms of: 1) overall quality, 2) successful incorporation of feedback, and 3) improvement during progressive writing of a rough draft, revision, and final draft of the report.  
* Comparison of initial and final performance of individual students on a non-graded quiz covering course material given on the first day and last day of the class | * Weekly in-class discussions and group analysis of example writing problems and possible ways to fix them (sentences, passages, and paragraphs chosen to highlight different types of problems).  
* Weekly in-class assignments involving analysis and revision of example sentences, passages, paragraphs, abstracts, figures, and reports.  
* Assignments in which students are given a published work and asked to identify, distinguish, and critically evaluate: (1) the purpose of the paper, (2) data and observations, and (3) interpretations or ideas presented  
* Lecture format presentations covering report organization, paragraph and sentence structure, grammar, word choice, construction of figures and tables, methods of searching literature, etc. |
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<td>ULO 2.1-2.5: Communicate effectively as speaker</td>
<td>* Focuses on a compelling central message that is precisely stated, appropriately repeated, memorable, and strongly supported</td>
<td>* Listen effectively, analyze, discuss and respond thoughtfully to oral presentation of scientific material</td>
<td>* Quality of participation in the weekly in-class discussions and group analysis of example writing (sentences, passages, and paragraphs chosen to highlight different types of problems and possible ways to fix them).</td>
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<td>* Offers a variety of supporting materials that are relevant to the central message, appropriate to the occasion, and in a variety of appropriated media (oral, written, media-supported) and establish the speaker’s credibility and authority</td>
<td>* Use oral communication to convey concepts and ideas in Geosciences effectively (oral presentation of posters and discussion of journal articles).</td>
<td>* Grading of oral poster presentations</td>
<td>* Assignments in which students are given a published work and asked to identify, distinguish, and critically evaluate: (1) the purpose of the paper, (2) data and observations, and (3) interpretations or ideas presented</td>
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<td>* Uses an organization pattern that is clear and consistently observable and makes content cohesive in creative ways</td>
<td>* Communicate more clearly and accurately through improved organization, grammar, and word choice.</td>
<td>* Feedback from student peer-reviewers on oral/poster presentations</td>
<td>* Lecture format presentations covering report organization, paragraph and sentence structure, grammar, word choice, construction of figures and tables, methods of searching literature, etc.</td>
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<td>* Makes imaginative, memorable, and compelling language choices with a tone appropriate to the audience and occasion</td>
<td>* Quality of presentation in the weekly in-class discussions and group analysis of example writing (sentences, passages, and paragraphs chosen to highlight different types of problems and possible ways to fix them).</td>
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<td>* Presentation, discussion, and analysis of successful, high-quality professional communications (published peer-reviewed papers and poster presentation materials)</td>
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<td>* Uses compelling and appropriate delivery techniques (posture, vocal expressiveness, audience interactions) so that speaker appears prepared polished and confident</td>
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| ULO 2.6: Communicate effectively as listener | Responds with critical understanding of oral communication of ideas | * Listen effectively, analyze, discuss and respond thoughtfully to oral presentation of scientific material  
* Use oral communication to convey concepts and ideas in Geosciences effectively (oral presentation of posters and discussion of journal articles).  
* Communicate more clearly and accurately through improved organization, grammar, and word choice. | * Quality of participation in the weekly in-class discussions and group analysis of example writing (sentences, passages, and paragraphs chosen to highlight different types of problems and possible ways to fix them).  
* Grading of oral poster presentations  
* Feedback from student peer-reviewers on oral/poster presentations | * Weekly in-class discussions and group analysis of example writing problems and possible ways to fix them (sentences, passages, and paragraphs chosen to highlight different types of problems).  
* Assignments in which students are given a published work and asked to identify, distinguish, and critically evaluate: (1) the purpose of the paper, (2) data and observations, and (3) interpretations or ideas presented  
* Lecture format presentations covering report organization, paragraph and sentence structure, grammar, word choice, construction of figures and tables, methods of searching literature, etc.  
* Presentation, discussion, and analysis of successful, high-quality professional communications (published peer-reviewed papers and poster presentation materials) |
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<td>ULO 3.1-3.4: Engage in effective critical inquiry by defining problems, gathering and evaluating evidence, and determining the adequacy of argumentative discourse.</td>
<td>* Clearly identifies and describes the problem; explains how it fits within the discipline's sphere of inquiry; describes multiple candidate approaches to addressing it.</td>
<td>* Distinguish between observations (data) and interpretations (ideas), and present them clearly in scientific communication</td>
<td>* Quality of participation in the weekly in-class discussions and group analysis of example writing (sentences, passages, and paragraphs chosen to highlight different types of problems and possible ways to fix them).</td>
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<td>* Adheres to and clearly explains/justifies disciplinary best practices with respect to thoroughness and accuracy of data collection (examples: literature review, fieldwork, surveys, experimental procedures).</td>
<td>* Critically evaluate, edit, and revise drafts written by yourself and others to improve organization, logic, and clarity</td>
<td>* Grading of weekly in-class assignments involving analysis and revision of example sentences, passages, paragraphs, abstracts, figures, and reports.</td>
<td>* Weekly in-class assignments involving analysis and revision of example sentences, passages, paragraphs, abstracts, figures, and reports.</td>
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<td>* Accurately diagnoses failures of reasoning and clearly distinguishes different grades of reasoning quality according to discipline-specific evaluative standards.</td>
<td>* Search and engage existing scientific literature and appropriately cite such literature in your communications using commonly accepted methods of reference</td>
<td>* Assessment and evaluation of a comprehensive term report in terms of: 1) overall quality, 2) successful incorporation of feedback, and 3) improvement during progressive writing of a rough draft, revision, and final draft of the report.</td>
<td>* Assignments in which students are given a published work and asked to identify, distinguish, and critically evaluate: (1) the purpose of the paper, (2) data and observations, and (3) interpretations or ideas presented</td>
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<td>* Makes effective use of evidence and principles to produce chains of reasoning that are of superior quality, as determined by discipline-specific evaluative standards.</td>
<td>* Communicate more clearly and accurately through improved organization, structure of paragraphs and sentences, grammar, and word choice.</td>
<td>* Presentation, discussion, and analysis of successful, high-quality professional communications (published peer-reviewed papers and poster presentation materials).</td>
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Assessment Method:

- **Evidence of Student Learning**

**Assessment Method**: The assessment method involves evaluating student work based on the ULO criteria. This includes:

1. **Weekly in-class discussions and group analysis of example writing problems and possible ways to fix them (sentences, passages, and paragraphs chosen to highlight different types of problems).**

2. **Grading of weekly in-class assignments involving analysis and revision of example sentences, passages, paragraphs, abstracts, figures, and reports.**

3. **Assignments in which students are given a published work and asked to identify, distinguish, and critically evaluate: (1) the purpose of the paper, (2) data and observations, and (3) interpretations or ideas presented.**

**Planned Teaching & Learning Activities / Pedagogy**

- **Weekly in-class discussions and group analysis of example writing problems and possible ways to fix them (sentences, passages, and paragraphs chosen to highlight different types of problems).**

- **Grading of weekly in-class assignments involving analysis and revision of example sentences, passages, paragraphs, abstracts, figures, and reports.**

- **Assignments in which students are given a published work and asked to identify, distinguish, and critically evaluate: (1) the purpose of the paper, (2) data and observations, and (3) interpretations or ideas presented.**

- **Presentation, discussion, and analysis of successful, high-quality professional communications (published peer-reviewed papers and poster presentation materials).**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Foundational Studies Program Director Signature</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

5-16-2013