

Disciplinary Communication in Earth and Planetary Sciences

Educational Objectives:

Primary

The ability to write reports that describe and synthesize background knowledge, qualitative observations, and quantitative data to reach conclusions using formats typical of communication in the Earth and Planetary Sciences.

The ability to assess your audience and structure your work accordingly.

Secondary

The ability to give presentations that describe and synthesize background knowledge, qualitative observations, and quantitative data to reach conclusions using formats typical of communication in the Earth and Planetary Sciences.

How Educational Objectives are Met:

Option 1: Take two classes from the following list.

*EART 104 (Geologic Hazards), EART 107 (Remote Sensing); *EART 109/L (Field Geology); EART 116 (Hydrology); *EART 117/L (Paleomagnetism); EART 120/L (Sedimentology & Stratigraphy); EART 140/L (Geomorphology); EART 146 (Ground Water); EART 150/L (Structural Geology); *EART 188A (Summer Field); *EART 188B (GIS w/ ES Applications).

Option 2: Write a senior thesis (EART 195)

All of the classes under Option 1 involve laboratory or laboratory and field observations that must be synthesized in multiple, graded reports over the course of the quarter. As the form of the reports is similar among these courses, knowledge about how to structure such reports is gained cumulatively. Students taking two courses from this set would write, at a minimum, about 30 pages. As most EPS majors take more than 2 classes from this set (our standard major would take 5), the average EPS major writes considerably more than 30 pages.

All courses marked with an * involve some form of student presentation. As such, they meet our secondary objective related to oral communication.

Under Option 2, the student focuses solely on our primary objectives related to written communication, producing multiple drafts of a thesis. Many of these students would take a course that incorporates student presentations, but this would not be a requirement for graduation.