

Course name	GEOS 575: <i>Senior Project</i>
Semester	Spring, 2018
Instructor	Dr. Shane D. Mayor
Discussion	Fri. 10:00 - 10:50 AM in PHSC 225
Lab	Fri. 2:00 - 4:50 PM in PHSC 225
Office hours	Mon. & Weds. from 3:30 to 5:00 PM or by appointment. (Please e-mail to let me know you are coming to office hours. If not in office, check PHSC 128 or 217.)
Office	Physical Science Building (PHSC) 117
Mailbox	Department of Geological and Environmental Sciences office (PHSC 217)
Phone	530-898-6337
E-mail	sdmayor@csuchico.edu
Prerequisites	Should be in final year of course work, preferably last semester.
Required Book	none
Course Format	The 50-minute discussion section in the morning is an opportunity for the instructor to work efficiently with all students as a class on research methodologies. The nearly 3-hour lab section in the afternoon is time for students to meet and work on their senior research projects. The instructor will be available during the lab period to assist individual students and teams on their research by answering questions and providing custom guidance. It is the student's responsibility to choose a topic, devise a methodology that can be achieved within the time available (see Table 1), execute the research and data analysis, draw conclusions, and present the results.
Course Overview	The purpose of this <i>capstone</i> course is for students to apply what they've learned in previous semesters by devising and conducting a scientific research project and presenting results at an on-campus conference. Students are charged with the tasks of (1) defining their research topic, (2) choosing to work alone or in teams, (3) fairly distributing the workload within each team, (4) collecting data, (5) analyzing results and drawing conclusions, and (6) presenting results in the form of a poster at the annual College of Natural Science poster session.
Course Grade	Course grades will be based upon weekly attendance and progress reports, the ingenuity of the project, the soundness of the scientific methodology and data analysis techniques employed, degree of success in achieving the intended outcome, and the quality of a final poster presentation.
Dropping & Adding	You may drop (or add) without obtaining permission until Friday, February 2. From February 3 to February 16, you must obtain permission from the instructor to drop. After Friday, February 16, you will need a serious and compelling reason to drop and your request must be approved by the Department Chair and the College Dean.

Classroom etiquette	<p>Please do not eat in discussion or labs. The noises and smells may be a distraction for your peers. Plan your day so that you have adequate nourishment before our meeting times.</p> <p>Please come to class on time. Walking in several minutes late is a distraction for everyone. We understand if it happens rarely due to extraordinary circumstances, but chronic lateness projects lack of maturity and respect and may be taken into account for your course grade.</p> <p>Please silence mobile phones and avoid texting during lectures.</p> <p>Please do not chat with your neighbor during lecture. It is very distracting for others in the course who are trying to listen to the instructor.</p> <p>Use of phones is strictly prohibited during quizzes and exams.</p>
Plagiarism	<p>Plagiarism is a serious violation of academic integrity and when detected will result in a failing grade for the course and an incident report submitted to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs. For more information on plagiarism, please see the university's Academic Integrity webpage. If you still have a question about what plagiarism is and how to avoid it, please contact the instructor by e-mail or visit during office hours.</p>
Disabilities	<p>If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability or chronic illness, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with the instructor as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Please also contact the Accessibility Resource Center (ARC) as they are the designated department responsible for approving and coordinating reasonable accommodations and services for students with disabilities. ARC will help you understand your rights and responsibilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act and provide you further assistance with requesting and arranging accommodations.</p>
Changes	<p>Students are responsible for coming to meetings to learn about any changes in the schedule and course content. The instructor reserves the right to modify this syllabus at any time. Course content, schedule, and grading policy may be changed during the semester. The schedule on the following page is <i>tentative</i>. The exact dates for exams and course material covered are subject to change.</p>

Table 1: Spring 2018 GEOS 575 meeting dates, significant events, and *tentative* schedule.

Meeting	Date	Activity
1	Jan. 26	Review syllabus, list possible project topics, discuss formation of teams.
2	Feb. 2	Settle on topics and teams. Begin writing short research proposal. (Last day to add or drop without permission of instructor.)
3	Feb. 9	Short research proposals due at the end of the day.
4	Feb. 16	If approved, begin experimental work or data analysis. No adding or dropping without approval from Chair and Dean.
5	Feb. 23	Perform experimental work or data analysis.
6	Mar. 2	Perform experimental work or data analysis.
7	Mar. 9	Perform experimental work or data analysis.
8	Mar. 16	Poster abstract draft due to instructor. Perform experimental work or data analysis.
	Mar. 23	Spring Break. No classes.
	Mar. 30	César Chávez Day. No classes.
9	Apr. 6	Begin creating posters.
10	Apr. 13	Final poster abstract due to instructor. Work on posters.
11	Apr. 20	Work on posters.
	Apr. 23	Submit abstracts to College of Natural Sciences poster session organizing committee.
12	Apr. 27	Work on posters.
13	May 4	Deadline for final poster. Poster must be submitted for printing at end of day.
14	May 10	Present results at College of Natural Science Poster Session.