The purpose of this course is to learn about current research in the Earth sciences, and to think about how you might convey your own research ideas to a general audience. The learning process begins by listening to a variety of research presentations, and thinking about different ways to effectively convey new ideas and supporting data. This benefit will accrue from your regular attendance at the department's weekly seminar and thoughtful review of the presentations that are made therein.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES
Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:
- describe the range of disciplinary research represented within the umbrella of the Earth and ocean sciences;
- identify significant developments in various fields of the Earth and ocean sciences;
- critique the content, methods, and significance of presented research; and
- assess the effectiveness of different styles and methods of persuasive communication.

GRADING
This course is offered on a pass/fail basis only. Grades are awarded based on attendance, and the successful completion of a series of short-answer questions about each presentation (below). Unexcused absences exceeding 10% of the class meetings will constitute failure of the course. A majority of reasonably complete, accurate and perceptive answers to short answer questions for 90% of the attended seminars will fulfill the course requirement for a passing grade.

1. What is the main contribution of this research? What do we know now that we did not know before the research was conducted?
2. Was the main point clearly conveyed? Why or why not?
3. What did you like about the style of the presentation (consider speaking style, slides, and pointer use)?
4. Was there anything about the style of the presentation that could be improved?
Finally, it is incumbent upon students in this course to do some brief background research on each seminar speaker. Such efforts may include reading recent papers, visiting the speaker’s website, and reading the presentation abstract in advance of the seminar.

The seminar schedule is posted on our web site at: www.geol.sc.edu, and is available as a Google Calendar here. Changes to the schedule will be updated to the aforementioned Google Calendar and by department-wide email.