SIO 239: Geophysics Research Discussion
Instructors: Dave Stegman and Donna Blackman

Times and locations
Class meetings Fri. 11:00–11:50 Munk Conference Room

Instructors
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Grading
This course is only offered S/U.

Attendance
You are expected to attend all the class meetings.

Presentations
Over the course of two quarters, each student will give at least two presentations to the class.

Reading Assignments
Every two weeks we will cover a geophysics topic by concurrently reading pairs of related papers. These typically include one paper considered to be a classic/landmark paper and the other paper will be more recent follow-up which provides a counterpoint. When possible, papers should be shorter, GRL length. The class will be divided into 2 groups, one for each paper. Students are required to read only the paper assigned to their group and are to have completed reading it within 1 week of it being assigned.

Written Assignments
Every other week you will read one scientific paper assigned to you and turn in 3 questions about the paper, either clarifying questions (what, how, etc) to be asked during the Q&A following it being presented in class, or probing questions (i.e. why?) related to more in depth discussion that occurs the following week.

Participation and Peer Assessment
Students are expected to participate every week by asking questions, such as clarifying questions or questions along a line of critical inquiry. Students will also fill out peer assessment forms to provide constructive comments to the presenters on their clarity, content, style, etc. The instructors will discuss this feedback with the presenters following the class.

Format
In the first week of each 2-week sequence, a synopsis for each paper will be presented. One student from each group will give this 15-20 minute presentation to cover the background, methods, results and conclusions. There will be a few minutes for questions, which should be aimed at clarifications to help better understand the paper. Students not presenting within the 2 week sequence are required to submit 3 questions to the forum on the course website at the end of the first week. These questions form a basis for discussion held in week 2.

In the second week, one student from each group will lead a discussion of their paper. They will assume that everyone is familiar with material so the emphasis is on in-depth analysis of the paper. They should not repeat the same material presented during week 1 of the sequence. They should try to incorporate comments/input from other students with the aim of facilitating discussion. The goal of the discussion is to further develop skills of critical inquiry of scientific literature.