

Fall Semester, 2024  
**PTYS 595B – Special Topics in Planetary Science**

**Instructor Information**

Victor R. Baker, Regents Professor of Planetary Sciences, Geosciences, Hydrology and Atmospheric Sciences. Office Hours by Appointment (call 520-405-8976)

**Course Description**

The topics for this seminar will include the full range of Earth surface geology and planetary analog issues, with special consideration to the interests of the seminar participants. Current research directions and topics from the relevant scientific literature will be covered. For graduate students with less experience in the subject area, there can be a series of lectures and background materials provided by the instructor. For more advanced participants the emphasis will be on discussion of specialized subject areas related to their research interests. Arrangements are being made to have visiting presentations (on-line) with research scientists specializing in various aspects of the seminar topics.

**Course Prerequisites:** Graduate Status or Advanced Undergraduates by Special Permission.

**Course Format, Teaching Methods, and Modality:** Seminar, with in-person meetings for small group discussions, plus on-line presentations and lectures by the instructor and visiting scientists on specific topics of interest to the participants.

**Course Objectives:** Course participants will advance their understanding of geological issues related to planetary science.

**Expected Learning Outcomes:** Course participants will be prepared for upcoming field courses (PTYS 590 – Planetary Geology Field Studies), in Fall and Spring 2024 respectively. Students will achieve an understanding of geological thinking, as it can be applied to planetary problems, including such topics as planetary analogs, planetary surface mapping, and the causal inferences that can be made in the course of investigating features on planetary surfaces.

**Required Texts and Materials:** There are no required texts or material.

**Schedule of Topics and Activities:** Weekly in-person seminar meetings will be on Friday afternoon, 3 to 5 pm. There will also topical presentations at other times during the week according to the schedules of subgroups focused on different geological issues.

**Assessments:** These will depend on the registration level. Many students will be registered for one credit. This will require regular attendance and active participation in

the weekly in-person meetings, plus some engagement with other activities, including supplemental meetings and on-line lectures. Students registered for two credits will pursue a specific topic of interest and provide a product of that inquiry, such as a seminar presentation, the leading of a discussion of the topic, or a written report. Grades will be assessed based on producing the appropriate outcome for the credit level of participation, with the top grade assigned for excellence in that outcome. There will be no quizzes or exams.

**Final Examination or Project:** There is no final examination are specific project requiremnt.

### **Safety on Campus and in the Classroom**

For a list of emergency procedures for all types of incidents, please visit the website of the Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT): <https://cirt.arizona.edu/case-emergency/overview>

Also watch the video available at

[https://arizona.sabacloud.com/Saba/Web\\_spf/NA7P1PRD161/common/learningeventdetail/crtfy000000000003560](https://arizona.sabacloud.com/Saba/Web_spf/NA7P1PRD161/common/learningeventdetail/crtfy000000000003560)

### **Nondiscrimination and Anti-harassment Policy**

The University of Arizona is committed to creating and maintaining an environment free of discrimination. In support of this commitment, the University prohibits discrimination, including harassment and retaliation, based on a protected classification, including race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or genetic information. For more information, including how to report a concern, please see: <http://policy.arizona.edu/human-resources/nondiscrimination-and-anti-harassment-policy>

University Policies All university policies related to a syllabus are available at: <https://catalog.arizona.edu/syllabus-policies>.

### **Subject to Change Notice**

Information contained in this course syllabus, other than the grade and absence policies, may be subject to change with reasonable advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor of this course.

### **Graduate Student Resources**

Consider accessing the University of Arizona's Basic Needs Resources page: <http://basicneeds.arizona.edu/index.html>