The objective of the Writing Intensive course is to evaluate a student's writing skills based on the satisfactory completion of at least two scientific papers. All Geology majors must complete this course. These papers can be written in conjunction with any upper level Geology class that requires a term paper. The work is done under the guidance of the instructor for that course, or with Dr. Howard if absolutely necessary (you must clear it with me first). Note that the term paper is not sufficient for completing the writing intensive course, nor is the writing intensive paper a substitute for the term paper requirements of that course. Also note that failure to comply precisely with the guidelines and deadlines outlined herein will result in an automatic withdrawal or U for the course -- no exceptions will be made to the following rules. Remember that the emphasis of this course is on your writing ability (i.e. spelling, grammar, sentence construction, etc.). The scientific content of the paper, while important, is of secondary concern. Plagiarism will have serious consequences.

**Step 1:** Write and submit a hard copy of a four page paper on a topic of geological significance (topic can be approved by instructor via email if you are in doubt) closely following the guidelines outlined below. Submit to receptionist or instructor in Geology office. Do not submit by email. Deadline for this paper is **Monday Feb. 26, 2016** by 5 pm.

**Step 2:** Instructor will review and make corrections to paper. You will be notified by email (within ~1 week) when corrected paper is ready for pickup from the receptionist in the Geology office. If too many corrections are needed, the paper will be returned uncorrected and a resubmission due within 3 days of return.

**Step 3:** Make corrections and submit revision along with marked-up copy of original. Corrections are due within 1 week of submission. You will be notified by email within 3 days if corrections are satisfactory.

**Step 4:** Write and submit a hard copy of a second four page paper on a different topic of geological significance (topic can be approved by instructor via email if you are in doubt) closely following the guidelines outlined below. Submit to receptionist or instructor in Geology office. Do not submit by email. Deadline for this paper is **Friday March 25, 2016** by 5 pm.

**Step 5:** Instructor will review and make corrections to paper. You will be notified by email (within ~1 week) when corrected paper is ready for pickup from the receptionist in the Geology office. If too many corrections are needed, the paper will be returned uncorrected and a resubmission due within 3 days of return.

**Step 6:** Make corrections and submit revision along with marked-up copy of original. Corrections are due within 1 week of submission. You will be notified by email within 3 days if corrections are satisfactory. If writing skills are deemed unsatisfactory, this process will be repeated ad nauseam. Otherwise, you will have successfully completed the course.
Guidelines for GEL 5993 Papers

The paper should be no more than 4 typed double-spaced pages. You must use 12 pt. Times New Roman font. Margins should be 1 inch (top, bottom, right) and 1-1/2 inches (left). The overall format should follow that found in recent issues of *Geological Society of America Bulletin* Each paper should have the following parts:

ABSTRACT
INTRODUCTION
DISCUSSION
Subheadings
CONCLUSIONS
REFERENCES CITED

The abstract should be no longer than 250 words. It should be as short as possible and read almost like a newspaper article, that is, most important points first and more trivial points last. You write this last because it summarizes, clearly and concisely, your major points and/or conclusions. Avoid statements like "the role of shape sorting on clast morphology is discussed". Be specific. Say exactly what your conclusions are, for example, "shape sorting was found to be the controlling factor in determining clast shapes in beach environments."

The introduction sets the stage for your discussion. Normally you outline or define the problem you will be addressing. In a review article such as this, you want to give an overview of the topics you will discuss, i.e. define the purpose and scope of your report. State why the topic you are discussing is important; what is its overall significance in Geology?

The discussion section is the main body of the paper. You should write from an outline and use topic headings. This section should be precisely referenced. The summary and conclusions should not be just a reiteration of the abstract, but perhaps a more expanded version along with suggestions for future work.

The reference section should follow the exact format found in *Geological Society of America Bulletin* and of course, all references cited must be listed.

Do not use text in quotations, this is about your writing ability, not the person you are referencing.