

**SEMINAR: GREAT BOOKS OF GEOLOGY**  
1 CREDIT, PASS/FAIL  
INSTRUCTOR: DON TRIPLEHORN (6891, 342 NSF)

Recommended Prerequisite: Background in at least some introductory geology classes (e.g., physical and historical geology) or another scientific discipline.

**Course Objective and Description:** To provide a better understanding of science, the position of geology within the sciences, and the history and nature of geology.

Books will be selected at the first meeting. Subsequent meetings will be set at appropriate intervals related to the length and difficulty of individual selections.

Students are required to read all the selections as well as the discussion guides and come to all discussions prepared to participate. If circumstances prevent this, suitable substitutes must be arranged with the instructor.

We will read about 4-5 books (the number depending upon length and difficulty) on geology and other science, with an evening discussion of each. Titles will be selected by the group, mainly, but not exclusively, from the list of Great Books of Geology (see attached list). Participants are required to read the books and actively join in the discussion.

An organizational meeting will be necessary to select the books and decide on a time and place. In the past we have met in the Spencer library (next to the dept. office) or at my house with popcorn and family dogs. Professional geologists from the community will be invited, and UAF faculties are welcome.

This is a chance to read some of those books that you have heard about or wanted to read but could never find the time. In previous years we have read Darwin's *Origin of Species*, McFee's *Control of Nature*, one of S.J. Gould's many books of essays, a biography of John Wesley Powell (Colorado River explorer and founder of the USGS), and *Great Geological Controversies*. This year we will start with the last of these and then the choices are yours. I have multiple copies of some books that may be of interest: this may be important because cost and availability of books impose a severe limit on practical choices.

**Disabilities Services:** The Office of Disability Services implements the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and insures that UAF students have equal access to the campus and course materials. UAF is committed to equal opportunity for all students. If you have a documented disability, please let me know within the first two weeks of class, and I will work with the Office of Disabilities Services to make the appropriate accommodation. If you have a specific undocumented physical, psychiatric or learning disability, you will benefit greatly by providing documentation of your disability to Disability Services in the Center for Health and Counseling, 474-7043, TTY 474-7045.