Geology 334, Sedimentology and Stratigraphy

Guidelines for AAPG Report

Due Date: May 28, 2015

For students attending the AAPG meeting this spring, you may submit a written report on your AAPG trip that will count for 5% of your course grade. Your report on the AAPG trip can be used as a substitute for attendance on the class field trip on May 9, if you need the time to catch up on things that you missed during the AAPG trip. If you want, you may submit an AAPG report and attend the course field trip on May 9 (and submit a written report on the class field trip), in which case the 5% for the AAPG report will count as “extra credit.”

Your report should be ~3-5 pages long (double spaced, 1-inch margins), well written, and well organized. I don’t mind if is a bit longer than this. You may include 1 or 2 figures if you want, in which case the figures are in addition to the page length. You need to write using complete, grammatically correct sentences and well organized paragraphs. Please use headings (and subheadings if appropriate) to organize content and provide the reader with a roadmap of your report. Be sure to proof-read your report to look for mistakes that a spell checker can’t find.

As for the topic, there are two main options.

(1) One option is to write a summary of a technical session related to sedimentology and/or stratigraphy (easy to find at an AAPG meeting!). You can summarize an oral session (talks) or a poster session. If you choose an oral session, sit and listen to at least 4 or 5 talks, and take notes! If you choose a poster session, attend 4 or 5 posters that are related to each other in some way, and again take notes. Pay attention to both content and presentation style. After the meeting, you will use your notes to write a report that summarizes the presentations and what you learned from them. For each one, include the names of authors and the title of their abstract. Please also include a Bibliography at the end with a complete list of the name of the session, authors, title, date and time of each abstract summarized. Do not copy or quote the abstract text – instead, convey what you learned. Please comment on both the style and content of the presentations, and mention briefly what you either liked or did not like about the presentations.

(2) Alternatively you can write a 3-5 page report on the field trip after the AAPG meeting. Again, it is important to take notes during the event. The report should start with a list of stops. If possible, include a base map that shows the locations of each stop (this can be quite simple, whatever they provide and approve you to share like this). Then write a concise and informative summary of each stop. The description of each stop should be divided into “Observations” and “Interpretation” – use these subheadings. For each stop, first present your observations and descriptions of the rocks, including formation name (if provided), its age, rock type, lithofacies (sandstone, shale, limestone, etc., and any variations), grain size, sedimentary structures or tectonic structures (faults, folds), etc. Then provide an interpretation of how the deposits formed. This may include depositional processes, depositional environment, and significance for regional basin evolution, tectonics, climate, sea level change, or what have you. It is important that you separate your interpretations from your observations, so be sure to use this organization.