

GEOL 371 -- Communicating What We Know About Science



Mt. Aeolus Marble Quarries in East Dorset (1887), Vermont Historical Society, LS02218

Telling other people about what we do as scientists is difficult work! We all struggle to write scientific papers and theses, most of which are dense, jargon-filled, and read only by those few people who truly care about our specialized fields. Even more difficult is writing about science for the non-science audience, be they students taking introductory courses, visitors to a science museum, or the general public picking up *Discover* magazine or *National Geographic*.

Over the fall semester, we will use several topics as catalysts to examine how we write about science. We will read papers and popular pieces about Climate Change, about Volcanoes, and about Erosion. We might even watch a movie or two. You will have a chance to do some writing as well as spend dinners with at least two visitors who have spent much of their professional life bridging this gap between the general and the scientific. The semester will culminate with a design project for the new Perkins Museum where, as a group, we will be responsible for improving an existing exhibit about natural hazards.

Variable 1-3 credits. Graduate standing required. CRN 92875.

We will meet from 5-8 on Thursday evenings in 316 Delehanty Hall, the Geology seminar room. Following years of tradition, this will be a class where food happens, probably as a shared responsibility for heavy appetizers/light dinner.

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