GEOL 514: THE BUSINESS OF ECONOMIC GEOLOGY

Credit: 3.00
Instructor: Dr. M. Stephen Enders

Pre-requisite Knowledge: Satisfactory completion of a mineral deposits course or relevant experience.

GEGN 514 is a “seminar style” graduate course designed for students who have an interest but no experience working in the exploration business as well as for students and early career professionals who may have some experience in exploration, mining, or economic geology and want to broaden and deepen their knowledge base about the business of exploration and the economic and financial aspects of the industry.

The course covers topics in: 1) overall structure and organization of the industry, 2) reserves, resources, and regulatory requirements, 3) exploration portfolio management and decision making, 4) case histories and current studies of major, mid-tier and junior companies, 5) mine and exploration finance, equity markets and funding, 6) royalties and royalty companies, 7) private equity companies, 8) the CEO, CFO and VP Exploration offices, 8) investor relations and business development functions, 9) financial, environmental and social aspects of sustainable mineral development, and 10) deal types and negotiations.

The course is led by Dr. Enders with lectures from CEO’s, CFO’s and other subject matter experts from the Denver area and includes the study and analysis of case histories and current situations. Current industry news feeds are used to help the students get a better understanding of the exploration business, and relevant examples of technical, economic, social, political, environmental and legal issues surrounding the industry. Each student will select a commodity and a company who specializes in that commodity to follow through the 16-week course resulting in an analyst-like final written report and oral presentation. The capstone experience is based on a required class trip to Toronto, Canada for the annual Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) conference in early March where the students get to hone their networking and interviewing skills and get the most up-to-date information and perspective on the industry. The PDAC trip also includes formal meetings with 6-10 companies who present their story directly to the class, typically with C-suite executives and vice presidents of exploration.

GEGN 514 has a professional development focus and covers topics traditionally taught in a business school to students that are specifically interested in a career in mining or mineral exploration. After completing the course, a student will understand company structure, exploration finance, portfolio management, the regulatory environment, and sustainable development aspects related to the minerals industry. Most importantly, the student will get a keen understanding of the role of various technical experts, managers, and executives and how they need to work together in a variety of settings to make any minerals business successful. The student will conclude the course with a much better perspective on how they can make a positive impact wherever they work.