

ded “Satisfactory” or “Unsatisfactory.” The capstone course in biology. Students are required to attend outside  
en by the instructor. This course assesses students’ ability to research independently topics in biology, assimilate  
ion, and disseminate the information in an organized and understandable fashion in both written and oral forms.  
onstrating comprehension of their topic and competence in communication skills, students take the ETS Major  
biology and complete the departmental Senior Exit Questionnaire for successful course completion. [0-3-1]

**Course objectives:**

- To assess students ability to independently research topics in biology, assimilate the information, and then to disseminate the information in an organized and understandable fashion in both written and oral forms.
- To administer and evaluate students’ satisfactory completion of the ETS Major Field Test in biology and completion of the departmental Senior Eonioi3Senidesalnaor/TT4 1 Tf6-1.796421..22197 TD55Course Outcomes

\_\_\_\_\_ . This course meets the follo wing educational outcomes.

**VSU General Education Outcomes 4, 7**

**Biology Educational Outcome 1**

**Specific Course Requirements:**

- Outline with references for term paper (due by 5 p.m. Thurs., 17 February)
- Oral Presentation
- Term Paper
- Completion of the Major Fields Test in Biology with a score of 140 or higher.
- Completion of the Senior Exit Questionnaire
- Attendance at all scheduled class meetings
- Attendance of and submission of completed evaluation forms for all science seminars.

**Major Field Test.** The ETS Major Field Test is a comprehensive, standardized test designed to evaluate the student’s general knowledge in the sub-disciplines of biology. The test scores will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the department’s curriculum, and VSU’s scores will be compared to the national average to identify possible weak areas in our curriculum. Thus, students should take the test seriously and make every effort to excel on it. *Completion of the ETS Major Field Test with a score of 140 or higher is a course requirement, and students who fail to complete the ETS Major Field Test will receive a grade of unsatisfactory for the course.*

*Each individual student is responsible for contacting the VSU Testing Office (Powell Hall-West, First Floor, Room 1120; Telephone 229-245-3878) and arranging a time to take the ETS Major Field Test in Biology. Students must complete the Major Field Test by Friday, 11 February 2011. A fee is assessed to take the Major Field Test. The Biology Department*

*seminar, it is the student's responsibility to see the instructor immediately after each seminar and submit her/his signed, completed evaluation form.*

### **Plagiarism.**

Plagiarism has become an increasing problem on University campuses. Plagiarism is the representation of someone else's work as your own. You may not blatantly copy phrases, paragraphs, or ideas from another's work. You cannot paraphrase someone else's ideas and use them as your own. You must analyze all data and work by others and then integrate this information with new data and conclusions that you independently synthesize, properly citing past work that supports your conclusions.

Students should read and be familiar with the Biology Department policy on plagiarism:

<http://www.valdosta.edu/biology/documents/biologyplagiarism.doc> and read and understand the University policy on Academic Integrity: <http://www.valdosta.edu/academic/AcademicHonestyPoliciesandProcedures.shtml>.

*Each student will be required to read the VSU Biology Department's Plagiarism Policy and to sign this form to be kept on file with the department, indicating they have read and comprehend this policy.*

Additionally, there have been many articles written on what is plagiarism and I refer students to the one referenced here and published in the Chronicle of Higher Education. The link for this article is available from the electronic version of this syllabus on the course web page.

McLemee, Scott. 2004. What is plagiarism? *The Chronicle of Higher Education* 51(17); A9.  
<http://chronicle.com/article/What-Is-Plagiarism-/6962>

In the article by Scott McLemee, the author quotes Joseph Telushkin in a passage that I believe aptly captures the reasons why academicians find plagiarism so ethically abhorrent. The quote by Joseph Telushkin reads, "If a person presents as her own an intelligent observation that she learned from another, then it would seem that she did so only to impress everyone with how 'bright' she is. But if she cites the source from whom she learned this information, then it would seem that her motive was to deepen everyone's understanding. And a world in which people share information and insights to advance understanding, and not just to advance themselves, is one well on its way to redemption."

***Any act of plagiarism in the student presentation of the written paper will result in a failing grade for the term paper and therefore, this course.***

It is imperative that the term paper be the student's own original work. Plagiarism will not be tolerated, and any student caught plagiarizing shall receive a failing grade on the term paper resulting in a grade of unsatisfactory in the course. Please be forewarned that various web search engines will be used to check for plagiarism, as well as SafeAssign (see below).

**Use of SafeAssign:** By taking this course, you agree that all required course work may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to SafeAssign, a tool within BlazeView. For more information on the us

**Written Term Paper:**

Written term papers are due at the time of your scheduled presentation to the class. The term paper must be delivered electronically *twice*, once to Dr. Goddard's email address (

### **Additional Instructions for Seminar Talk Presentation**

1. Talks are expected to be professional in nature.
  - a) Delivered on assigned date
  - b) Organized
  - c) Well spoken (adequate volume, elocution)
  - d) Practiced
  - e) Substantial / non-superficial
  - f) Demonstrate a clear mastery and understanding of the topic and relevant biology
2. Talks should last about 20 min with an additional 5 minutes allowed at the end for questions and discussions.
3. Talks should be prepared using PowerPoint

Note: PowerPoint allows for vast amounts of graphic design for presentation slides. Good graphics matter only in so far as they actually contribute to the clarity of the presentation. Please do not waste huge amounts of your time on meaningless, computer graphi



