



## Biology 4900C Tentative Class Schedule (Subject to Change)

Date	Class Topic	Assignment	
Jan	11	How to Read a Scientific Article	Evaluation of a <i>Science</i> Paper
	12	Advanced Research Searching (Library 2634)	Student Information Sheet
	18	Primary & Secondary Literature & Citations	Printouts of 3 Papers
	19	Science Seminar in Union Theatre	
	25	Paraphrasing & Annotated Bibliography	Annotated Bibliography (8 papers)
	26	Science Seminar	
Feb	1	Effective Writing & Paper Requirements	

## **Biology 4900C Course Requirements**

**Assessment:** Biology 4900 is ultimately graded on a Pass/Fail (S/U) basis. Satisfactory completion or a passing grade depends on achieving at least a 70% average on the accumulated course assignments. If you miss any assignments, you must ask a classmate, do not email the instructor. Any work not submitted by the deadline (Start of Class Meeting) on the required date will either be given a zero. Do not expect exceptions to this. If your work is not finished when the papers are collected, they will not be graded and you miss important feedback. As seniors,

## **BIOL 4900C Senior Research Project**

### **Course Theme: "Novel Strategies Representing the Evolution of Reproduction"**

Students are required to select a topic that is substantiated by a reasonable body of accessible, primary scientific research. Any extant organism can be selected. Every person will have a distinctly different topic and claims to a topic will be made by emailing your draft title, justification of the novelty, and the citations for 3 primary papers. You will get a confirmation if the topic is open or notification to search for another if it is taken or not appropriate.

### **Scientific Literature:**

As soon as the topic is confirmed, it is important to look for current research being done in this field. A primary paper is the original publication of a scientific finding by the investigator(s) in a reputable journal. Initially, obtain printed copies of 7 recent primary papers related to the topic. These papers will be used for the class on types of literature during the third class session. Six more must be summarized and turned in as noted on the course schedule. No less than 8 primary papers must be cited in your paper; 3 can be historic, but 5 must be published after 2000. Up to three scientific reviews from upper level scientific journals may be cited. Articles from Scientific American, Popular Books and General Websites must be approved before they can be cited as a reputable source.

### **Background on General Reproduction in Related Organisms:**

Part of the foundation for the current research will be a section of the paper that summarizes what is generally known about the basic reproductive strategies of this group of organisms. Use text books or secondary sources for this section and since it is common knowledge there will be no citations. Two double spaced pages should contain 3-4 well-organized paragraphs that deal with asexual/sexual or taxonomic subdivisions of the organisms. The handwritten notes used to write this section must be submitted as part of the assignment.

### **Annotated Bibliography:**

The 8 primary papers will be paraphrased and submitted in the form of an extensively annotated bibliography. The references must be precisely formatted according to the APA style. Summary paragraphs of each article must contain reference to the authors in the form of a citation as well as: 1) what was investigated, 2) the basic methodology, 3) a summary of their findings, & 4) how this relates to your paper.

### **Peer Review:**

Every student will evaluate a draft of another student's paper according to a format discussed in class. Revisions based on the peer review will be made before a draft is submitted to the instructor.

### **Thesis & Outline:**

The topic of your research must ultimately be stated, in your own words, in a concise descriptive thesis statement that is the proposition or focus of your study. A detailed Outline should include the working title, general sections or subheadings with bullets for the points that will be included in these sections.

## VSU Biology Department Policy on Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a broad term used to describe many forms of cheating that involve taking credit for someone else's

## Quotations

Sometimes students get a little carried away with the use of quotations. Copying large volumes of material, placing it in quotes and citing the author is not plagiarism, but neither is it evidence of your ability to write a paper. So, you may receive a failing grade for excessive quotations because you failed to actually *write*