

Valdosta State University
Department of Biology, College of Arts and Sciences
BIOL 4900 B: Senior Seminar
Syllabus, Fall 2013

Instructor : Dr. Cy L. Mott

Office : Bailey Science Center 1212

Office Hours : Monday 2:00 ±4:00 P. M., Tuesday 3:30 ±4:30 P. M. or by appointment

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Note: Please DO NOT send messages through BlazeVIEW, as they are not automatically forwarded to my VSU email account. Using the email address above will result in the most prompt response.

Course Time and Location : Lecture (BSC 1202): Wednesday 3:30 ±5:20 P. M.

Major Field Test : The ETS Major Field Test is a comprehensive, standardized test designed to measure student achievement in the disciplines of biology, zoology, and botany. The 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 schedule the Major Field Test by September 26th, 2013. A fee is assessed to take the Major Field Test. The Biology Department will pay the fee for each student to take the test once. Students who fail to score at least 140 on the test must re-take it until a score of 140 is achieved. The student will bear the cost for any re-taking of the Major

Friday immediately following the seminar. Seminar summaries should be in Microsoft Word format (.doc or .docx) and uploaded through TurnItIn on Blazeview.

Participation/Assignments : You are expected to participate in class discussions and be engaged during student presentations. Attendance is mandatory for all classes, and students arriving > 5 minutes late will be marked as absent. Any student missing > 20% of course/seminar

TENTATIVE Schedule: Subject to change

Date	Topic	Assignments Due
14-Aug	Course Logistics and Overview	
21-Aug	Effective Scientific Writing	Plagiarism Tutorial Citation Card Final Topic Selection
28-Aug	Student Research, No Class	
4-Sept	Student Research, No Class	
11-Sept	Effective Scientific Presentations Peer Review of Research Paper	Paper Draft
18-Sept	Student Research, No Class	
25-Sept	Student Research, No Class	
2-Oct	Paper Submission/Senior Exit Questionnaire	Research Paper
9-Oct	Student Presentations	
16-Oct	Student Presentations	
23-Oct	Student Presentations	
30-Oct	Student Presentations	
6-Nov	Student Presentations	
13-Nov	Student Presentations	
20-Nov	Student Presentations	

Research Topics:

- * HRJUDSKLF UDQJH HGJH reproductive strategies SHFLHV ¶
- Diversity of reproductive strategies in the amphibians
- Social organization of beavers and/or other colonial mammals
- Ecosystem engineering by vertebrate and/or invertebrate taxa
- * HRJUDSKLF UDQJH HGJH HIIHFWV RQ VSHFLHV ¶ PRUSKRO
- Conservation value of geographically ³

- Geographic range edge effects on physiological processes
- * O R J H U ¶ V 5 X O H
- Value of amphibians in medicinal research
- Effects of cerebral asymmetry on animal behavior
- Geographic range size versus evolutionary age
- Relationships between geographic range size and body size
- Parthenogenesis in vertebrates
- Effect of predator intraspecific size variation on trophic cascades
- Economic value of amphibians