

Biology 4900—Senior Seminar  
Fall 2012

Instructor: Dr. Timothy P. Henkel

Office: 2212 Bailey Science Center 249 #844

Office hours: T & TH 2-3 pm and by appointment

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Course Objective (from the Undergraduate Catalog): The capstone course in biology. This course assesses students' abilities to research independently topics

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 Field Test.

**Academic Honesty Policy:** Cheating, plagiarism (submitting another person's material as one's own, or doing work for another person which will receive academic credit) are all impermissible. This includes the use of unauthorized books, notebooks, or other sources in order to secure or give help during an assignment or exam, the unauthorized copying of examinations, assignments, reports, or term papers, or the presentation of unacknowledged material as if it were your own work. Students are responsible for knowing, understanding, and complying with the VSU Student Code of Conduct, in Appendix A of the Student Handbook (<http://www.valdosta.edu/stulife/handbook/>)

If substantial evidence exists for a violation of this policy, *the student(s) involved will receive a grade of 'U' for the course* and an official record will be filed following the Academic Integrity Response along with a letter to the Dean of Students

(<http://www.valdosta.edu/academic/AcademicHonestyPoliciesandProcedures.shtml>)

Students are required to sign the Department of Biology's Plagiarism Policy. In addition, students must complete the plagiarism tutorial by Aug. 21 online at

<http://www.lib.usm.edu/legacyplag/plagiarismtutorial.php>

**SafeAssign:** By taking this course, you agree that all required coursework may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to SafeAssign, a tool within Blackboard. For more information on the use of SafeAssign at VSU, see SafeAssign for Students

(<http://www.valdosta.edu/academic/SafeAssignforStudents.shtml>)

**Seminar Summaries:** As part of BIOL 4900 you will attend the science seminar series. The seminar schedule is posted and updated online <http://www.valdosta.edu/cas/scisem/Fall2012.shtml>. It is your responsibility to follow the schedule and attend the weekly seminar. Be advised that the schedule is regularly updated with seminars and/or cancellations. Students must check in with their professor following each seminar to receive credit for attendance.

A rubric for seminar summaries is posted on the course Blackboard website. Summaries are due by 5pm the Friday immediately following the seminar. Seminar summaries should be in Microsoft Word format (.doc or .docx) and uploaded through SafeAssign on Blackboard. You must score at least 100 pts, which may take as few as 5 seminar summaries.

**Participation/Assignments:** You are expected to participate in class discussions and be engaged during student presentations. In addition, several assignments will be given to aid in the development of your research paper and presentation. This portion of your grade will reflect your completion of assignments as well as engagement during presentations (asking questions, completion of peer evaluation forms, etc.) and discussions.



## PROPOSED SCHEDULE

Seminars: Students are required to attend the Science Seminar Series, Thurs. 4 #:50pm. The schedule of speakers can be found online: <http://www.valdosta.edu/cas/scisem/Fall2012.shtml>

Date	Topic	Assignments Due
14 Aug	Course Logistics and Overview	
21 Aug	Effective Scientific Writing	Plagiarism Tutorial Citation Cards
28 Aug	Student Research, No Class	Final Approval of Topic
4 Sep	Student Research, No Class	
11 Sep	Effective Scientific Presentations Peer Review of Research Paper	Paper Draft
18 Sep	Student Research, No Class	Complete Major Fields Test
25 Sep	Student Research, No Class	
2 Oct	Paper Submission/Senior Exit Questionnaire	Research Paper
9 Oct	Student Presentations	
16 Oct	Fall Break	
23 Oct	Student Presentations	
30 Oct	Student Presentations	
6 Nov	Student Presentations	
13 Nov	Student Presentations	
20 Nov	TBD	
27 Nov	Student Presentations	