
Biology Department, College of Arts & Sciences, Valdosta State University
SPRING 2019---COURSE SYLLABUS*

BIOL 4900, Section B. Senior Seminar(CRN 21999) - 1 credit hour

Times: Wednesday 3:30-5:20 pm, 2022 Bailey Science Center
Tuesday 12:30-1:45 pm, 1023 Bailey Science Center or other location to be determined
Additional seminars/presentations will be announced on BlazeView as soon as they are available.

Instructor: Dr. Jenifer Turco Email: jturco@valdosta.edu
Telephone: 229-249-4845 Office: 2091 Bailey Science Center
Office Hours: Tues. & Thurs., 4:15-5:05 pm; Wed., 2:15-3:00 pm; or by appointment.

BIOL 4900. Senior Seminar. 1 Hour.

Pre or Corequisite: Completion of all required courses in the senior curriculum for the biology major. Grades of "Satisfactory" or "Unsatisfactory". The capstone course in biology. Students are required to attend outside lectures chosen by the instructor. This course assesses students' ability to research independently topics in biology, assimilate the information, and disseminate the information in an organized and understandable fashion in both written and oral forms. Besides demonstrating comprehension of their topic and competence in communication skills, students take the ETS Major Field test in biology and complete the departmental Senior Exit Questionnaire for successful course completion. (From VSU Undergraduate Catalog)

Required Items: (i) One CD or flash drive for the references, paper, and oral presentation. (ii) A computer that cannot be used to access

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1. In order to respect the privacy of each student, grades will not be posted, given out by telephone, or sent to students by email.
 2. Students should consult the VSU Student Handbook, Catalog, Semester Calendar, Schedule of Classes, & Registration Guide (all available online) for information about VSU policies and procedures regarding registration, drop/add, and withdrawal.

SPECIAL NOTES TO STUDENTS (continued from preceding page):

8. Students are expected to read and adhere to the following: (i) the VSU Student Code of Conduct as described in the VSU Student Handbook (<https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/studentaffairs/studentconductoffice/studenthandbook.php>) and (ii) the Biology Department policy on plagiarism (available online through the departmental Web site <http://www.valdosta.edu/colleges/sciences/biology/documents/resources/PlagiarismPolicy.pdf>). The instructor may use a variety of methods for detecting cheating and plagiarism. Cheating or plagiarism will result in a grade of "0" for the assignment and a grade of unsatisfactory ("U") for the course. In addition, the instructor may complete a Report of Academic Dishonesty and submit it to the VSU Student Conduct Office.

9. At the end of the term, all students will be expected to complete an online Student Opinion of Instruction survey (SOI) that will be available on BANNER. Students will receive an email notification through their VSU email address when the SOI is available (generally at least one week before the end of the term). SOI responses are anonymous to instructors/administrators. Instructors will be able to view only a summary of all responses after they have submitted final grades. While instructors will not be able to view individual responses or to access any of the data until after final grade submission, they will be able to see which students have or have not completed their SOIs. These compliance and non-compliance reports will not be available once instructors are able to access the results. Complete information about the SOIs, including how to access the survey and a timetable for this term is available at <http://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academicaffairs/sois/welcome.php> [SOI Procedures and Timeline](#)

(iii) Another possible outside presentation is the Connell Lecture (Sponsored by the Eugene Connell Visiting Lecture Program & VSU Department of Biology). Date, time, and location will be announced. Most likely, this lecture will be scheduled in the evening, and it is recommended. Presentation summaries for this lecture must be submitted to the instructor during class on the Wednesday immediately after the Connell lecture.

4. Each student will select a general topic from the list (due January 23) and a specific focus (due January 23 or January 30) for the research to be conducted. These topics must be submitted to the instructor on the indicated dates. Once a topic has been chosen it may not be changed.

5. Each student will find in complete, readable copies of the references to be used for the paper (including all tables and figures). These are due on Feb. 13; however, they can be submitted Feb. 6, if desired. The references must include 2 (or possibly 3, depending on the length) reviewed, formal scientific articles that are primary sources. These primary sources must deal with the specific focus that you chose for your research. The submitted references must also include 2 (or possibly 3) reviewed, formal scientific articles that are review articles. In some instances, authoritative books and book chapters by experts on the topic may be used in addition to the review articles, but they are not required, and they may not be substituted for the review articles or primary sources. Textbooks may not be used as sources. Primary sources must have been published between 2010 and 2019. It is suggested that the student make an effort to locate published review articles and book chapters. All sources must list references at the end, and the references must be cited within the text of the articles or book chapters. You may use interlibrary loan; however, this process may take additional time. Please note that textbooks, Web sites, informal Internet articles or fact sheets, newspaper articles, magazines, book reviews, and letters to the editor are generally NOT acceptable sources. Each primary source must be 4-6 pages in length. Each primary source must also contain 3 or more tables and/or figures per source. The copies of the references submitted will be returned to the student; however, the references must be given to the instructor again when the paper is submitted. Please be certain that you read the references before you initially submit them. You must use your submitted references in your paper, so please choose them carefully.

6. In consultation with the instructor, each student will select the primary source that will be the focus of his/her oral presentation. This selection is due on Feb. 20. Once the primary source has been chosen, it cannot be changed.

7. Each student will find in an original, well-organized, and carefully written paper on the topic. The paper must be in review format. The paper must include the following: (1) Title and Author,

specific aspect of the topic in this section you will cover and discuss your primary sources. Examples of more specific aspects of your topic might include: antibiotic resistance in the particular pathogen; properties/research on a particular virulence factor of the pathogen; progress in development of a vaccine for prevention of diseases to the pathogen;

Tues. Mar. 12 **To be announced**
Wed. Mar. 13 A revised draft of your written paper (including references & all sections) is due in class for peer review. Another member of the class will read your paper and provide feedback (See list on preceding page.)

SPRING BREAK

Tues. Mar. 26 **Dr. Brian Ring (VSU)**
Wed. Mar. 27 Papers are due both printed & electronic versions must be submitted
YOU WILL NOT HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO REVISE YOUR PAPER FOR ANY REASON, SO PLEASE DO YOUR BEST WRITING!!

Tues. Apr. 2 **To be announced**
Wed. Apr. 3 Oral Presentations

Tues. Apr. 9 **Dr. Jonghoon Kang (VSU)**
Wed. Apr. 10 Oral Presentations

Tues. Apr. 16 **To be announced**
VSU Undergraduate Research Symposium (See schedule online for locations.)
Wed. Apr. 17 VSU Undergraduate Research Symposium (See schedule online for locations.)

Tues. Apr. 23 **To be announced**
Wed. Apr. 24 Return assignments, etc.
Also, possible make-up oral presentation(s) (only in the event of a documented, serious emergency)

Tues. Apr. 30 **No Biology Department seminar is scheduled on this day**
Wed. May 1 Return assignments, etc.

GRADING – This course is graded Satisfactory (S) or Unsatisfactory (U).

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