

Biology Seminar Series:

Students are required to attend all seminars in the Biology Seminar Series. The Fall 2017 Biology Seminar Series schedule is yet to be finalized, but it is expected that there will be at least 4 Seminars and possibly several Biology Student Master's thesis defense presentations. Seminars will be held on Tuesday's at 12.45pm - 1.35pm. Students are required to complete an evaluation form for each science seminar attended. An evaluation form template will be emailed to all students at the beginning of the semester which should then be printed out in advance of each seminar by the student. In order to receive credit for attending a biology seminar, it is the student's responsibility to see the instructor immediately after each seminar and submit his/her signed completed evaluation form. No late and/or electronically submitted evaluation forms will be accepted.

Attendance and Conduct:

Attendance of all scheduled class periods (including all student presentations) and all Biology seminars is required of all students. Students are expected to arrive on time and should not enter class or a science seminar late. Use of cell phones during class periods and science seminars is not permitted. **If you use your cell phone, or your cell phone activates, during a student oral presentation or formal biology seminar you will automatically receive an unsatisfactory grade for the course.**

Title IX Statement: Valdosta State University (VSU) is committed to creating a diverse and inclusive work and learning environment free from discrimination and harassment. VSU is dedicated to creating an environment where all campus community members feel valued, respected, and included. Valdosta State University prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, sex (including pregnancy status, sexual harassment and sexual violence), sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, age, national origin, disability, genetic information, or veteran status, in the University's programs and activities as required by applicable laws and regulations such as Title IX. The individual designated with responsibility for coordination of compliance efforts and receipt of inquiries concerning nondiscrimination policies is the University's Title IX Coordinator: Maggie Viverette, Director of the Office of Social Equity, titleix@valosta.edu, 1208 N. Patterson St., Valdosta State University, Valdosta, Georgia 31608, 229-333-5463.

Access Statement: Students with disabilities who are experiencing barriers in this course may contact the Access Office for assistance in determining and implementing reasonable accommodations. The Access Office is located in Farbar Hall. The phone numbers are 229-245-2498 (V), 229-375-5871 (VP) and 229-219-1348 (TTY). For more information, please visit VSU's Access Office or email: access@valdosta.edu.

Privacy Act (FERPA):

Due to the Buckley Amendment, or Privacy Act, an individual's personal information cannot be released to anyone but that individual. As such, grades will not be discussed over the phone, by email, or released to a friend or relative.

Cheating / Plagiarism:

Please refer to the Student Code of Ethics in the Valdosta State University Student Handbook.
Please refer to the Valdosta State University, Department of Biology Plagiarism Policy.

It is imperative that all student papers are the student's own original work. Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Any student caught plagiarizing shall receive a failing grade on their paper and a grade of unsatisfactory for the course. Each student will be required to read the VSU Department of Biology Plagiarism policy (see department webpage), print and sign the form indicating that they have read and comprehended the policy. The signed form must be included in an appendix with their submitted paper. By taking this course, you agree that all required course work may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin, a tool within BlazeVIEW

In addition, students must complete the online plagiarism tutorial by 22nd August.

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

Grading:

Discussion/Participation:	10 points
Oral Presentation:	40 points
Written Paper:	50 points
Plagiarism in paper:	Automatic zero for paper
Absence from a scheduled Class:	- 5 points
Each absence from Science Seminar:	- 5 points
Failure to complete Major Field Test:	- 40 points
Failure to complete the senior exit questionnaire:	- 30 points
Failure/late submission of outline of research paper:	- 20 points

Final Grade:

Satisfactory	(S)	70 points
Unsatisfactory	(U)	< 70 points

Outline of Research Paper:

You are required to submit a detailed outline of your paper by 12th September. Your outline should include a potential title for your paper and a detailed outline of the general sections and subsections within the paper with detailed notes. A correctly formatted reference section should be included. Copies of abstracts from all primary research articles included in the reference section should also be included.

Research Paper:

You are required to write a paper on your selected topic.

Overall Format of Research Paper:

1) Title Page:

Title of the paper

Student name

Course title

Instructor name

Submission date.

2) Abstract:

Abstracts should be on a separate page and be a maximum of 300 words in length.

3) Main body of the research paper consisting of:

i) Introduction: An opening to the paper that provides the reader with a general introduction to the research topic.

ii) Discussion:

Tentative Schedule:

DATE	TOPIC
15 August	Introduction / Organization / Topic Selection
22 August	Discussion of Topics / Oral Presentations (Online Plagiarism Tutorial Completed)
29 August	<i>No Class – Student Research</i>
5 September	<i>No Class – Student Research</i>
12 September	<i>No Class – Student Research</i> (Detailed Outlines with References)
19 September	<i>No Class – Student Research</i>
26 September	<i>No Class – Student Research</i>
3 October	Peer Review of Student Papers (Biology MFT Completed)
10 October	NO CLASS FALL BREAK
17 October	Biology Senior Exit Questionnaire
24 October	Research Paper Due (Hard copy in class, Electronic copy by 8pm)
31 October	Student Presentations
7 November	Student Presentations
14 November	Student Presentations
21 November	Student Presentations
28 November	Student Presentations

Student Checklist of Course Requirements:

- ___ Completion of the online plagiarism tutorial (By 22nd August)
- ___ Outline with references for research paper (Due 12th September)
- ___ Completion of MFT in Biology (140) – Submit photocopy of score to instructor. (By 3rd October)
- ___ Draft of research paper ready for Peer Review (By 3rd October)
- ___ Completion of Biology Senior Exit Questionnaire. (17th October)
- ___ Oral Presentation PowerPoint (email) – (Due 1 week before presentation)
- ___ Research paper “paper hardcopy” – (Due 24th October in class)
- ___ Research paper “electronic copy” – (Due 24th October by 8pm)
- ___ Attendance of all scheduled class periods (including all student presentations)
- ___ Attendance of and submission of completed evaluation forms from Biology Series Seminars and Masters Student Presentations.

TOPIC SELECTION ORDER: _____