

Biology 4900—Senior Seminar  
Fall 2018

Instructor: Dr. Timothy P. Henkel  
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Office hours W 10- 11 am and by appointment  
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Course Objective: Besides demonstrating proficiency in writing, students will take the ETS Major Field test in biology and complete the Senior Exit Questionnaire for successful completion.

Pre or corequisites: Completion of all courses in the senior curriculum for the biology major.

Optional Text: Writing Papers in the Biological Sciences, Fifth Edition. McMillan, Virginia.

Course requirements: Ultimately, the course graded as "Satisfactory" or "Unsatisfactory". In order to obtain a Satisfactory, you will need to complete all of the following:

- a minimum score of 140 on the Major Fields Test
- attend 95% of scheduled class meetings and seminars.
- Complete the Senior Exit Questionnaire
- Obtain at least 70% of points from the following assignments and projects
  - o Annotated Bibliography 40 pts
  - o Peer Review 40 pts
  - o GRFP Statements 40 pts
  - o Oral Presentation 30 pts
  - o Seminar Summaries 10 pts

All assignments are due at the start of class on the assigned date. Assignments can be completed however, no assignments will be accepted after the due date. Assignments not turned in will receive 0 points. Rubrics for all assignments and projects are provided on the course Blazeview website.

Major Field Test: The ETS Major Field Test (MFT) is a comprehensive, standardized test designed to evaluate the student's general knowledge in the disciplines of biology. The test scores will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the department's curriculum, and VSU results will be compared to the national average to identify possible weak areas in our curriculum. Thus, students should take it 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.



Access Office Students requesting classroom accommodations or modifications due to a documented disability must contact the Access Office for Students with Disabilities located in the Farber Hall. The phone numbers are 242-498 (V/VP) and 219