

VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY  
Biology 4900—Senior Seminar  
Fall 2012

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. J. A. NIENOW

OFFICE: 2089 Biology/Chemistry Building; 249-4844

Office hours: Mondays and Wednesdays—4:00-5:00, Fridays—11:00-12:00, or  
by appointment

EMAIL: [jnienow@valdosta.edu](mailto:jnienow@valdosta.edu)

Course Objective (from the Undergraduate Catalog): “The capstone course in biology. This course assesses students’ abilities to research independently topics in biology, assimilate the information, and disseminate the information in an organized and understandable fashion in both oral and written forms. Besides demonstrating comprehension of their topic and competence in communication skill, students take the ETS Major Field test in biology and complete the Senior Exit Questionnaire for successful course completion.”

Pre or co -requisite s: Completion of all courses in the senior curriculum for the biology major.

Course requirements: In order to pass this course with a Satisfactory (S), you will need to complete all of the following:

- a minimum score of 140 on the Major Fields Test (fnnT.2e.8FO 30 Td ( ) 1.69 0 Bd ( Td ( ) 0( ) p a4(ou m)7l6result in f in failure of the course. Paraphrasing does not the best way to ensure that you do not plagiarize. Take a break from it for a day or two, and then begin writing your own understanding of the material.

PowerPoint presentation and paper: Your presentation should be focused on a research article, preferably the one assigned for the course. In addition it must include:

- thorough background on the system
- the biological questions that the author asks
- the methods that the authors use to answer the questions
- the results of the experiments and interpretations

To get a satisfactory grade you must

## Proposed Schedule

Note: Some of the dates may be changed to accommodate your instructor's research.  
Attend class regularly.

8/15	Introduction to the course
8/16	NO SEMINAR
8/22	Select topic and primary paper
8/23	Seminar—Dr. L. Jones, TBA

10-24	Student presentations: 13. 14. 15.
10/25	Seminar—TBA
10/31	Student presentations: 16. 17. 18.
11/1	Seminar—Dr. N. Malcolm, The Creation of STUNT Cheer: A Story of Title IX, Cheerleading and the Gender Politics of Sport
11/7	Student presentations: 19. 20. 21.
11/8	Seminar—Dr. J. M. Kwak, TBA
11/14	Student presentations: 22. 23. 24.
11/15	Seminar—Dr. E. Gray, Blackflies and Whooping Cranes, a critically endangered species
11/21	THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY
11/22	NO SEMINAR

11/28