# Senior Seminar
# BIOL 4900 Section A
# Fall Semester 2013

**Instructor:** Dr. Cristina Calestani
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Email:

**Attendance Policy**
Students are expected to attend all Class Sessions and the weekly Science Seminars. If you fail to attend one of the Class Sessions or Science Seminars, you must provide documented evidence (e.g. from doctor, police, etc.) that circumstances beyond your control prevented you from attending. Students with more than two unexcused absences will receive an "Unsatisfactory" grade for the course. In class attendance will be recorded within the first 10 minutes of class. Students arriving after the first 10 minutes of class will be considered absent. Seminar attendance will be recorded with the Seminar Critique form that needs to be turned-in to the Instructor by the end of the Science Seminar.

**Major Field Test**
The Major Field Test is a comprehensive, standardized test prepared by the Educational Testing Service and designed to evaluate the student's general knowledge in biology. The test scores will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the Biology Department's curriculum. VSU student scores are also compared to the national average to identify possible weak areas in the curriculum. Thus, students should take the test seriously and make every effort to excel on it. Advices on how to review for the MFT will be provided in class. Completion of the ETS Major Field Test with a score of 140 or

**Cheating or Plagiarism**
For VSU's Academic Integrity Code please
see http://www.valdosta.edu/academic/AcademicHonestyPoliciesandProcedures.shtml.
For VSU's Academic Honesty please see http://www.valdosta.edu/academic/AcademicHonestyatVSU.shtml.

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**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:**

| Date | Topic | Assignment Due |
|---|---|---|
| Aug 13 | Course Introduction | |
| Aug. 15 | No Science Seminar | |

**REVIEW PAPER TOPICS**

Students will choose the topic area of interest. The Instructor will assign to each student a specific paper title within the following topic areas:

1) Biotechnology: nutritional enhancement of crops
2) Gene therapy
3) Stem cells/Regenerative medicine
4) Enhancement of crop resistance to the environment (e.g. drought, salinity, temperature stress, pathogens)
5) Genomics: personalized medicine
6) Genetics (inheritance of human diseases)
7) Reproductive Biology: invasive species, environmental effects on sex determination