

ABIO 490 SENIOR SEMINAR
Syllabus

Spring 2007

Instructor: Dr. Michele Harmon
Office: SBDG 221A
Telephone: 641-3607

Office Hours: By appointment
Email: micheleh@usca.edu

Lecture: Th, 6:00-7:15PM in SBDG 107
Text: None

Credit: One Semester Hour

Course Description: Discussion and presentation of current topics in biology and geology by students, faculty, and visiting scientists. Emphasis is placed on effective oral communication and critical examination of scientific information and ideas. Students will prepare a research proposal / grant application, 2 oral practice presentations, and a final formal research presentation.

Course Objectives: Students will be introduced to current research in the fields of biology and geology through search seminars in the context of the Department of Biology and Geology Seminar Series. BS students will be expected to present their own current research projects and BA students will be expected to present the state of current research in a topic assigned by the instructor. BA and BS students will be expected to prepare and submit proposal forms for their research; BS proposals will include a request for departmental funding.

Students will be expected to

1. complete the Department of Biology and Geology Research Grant Proposal;
2. develop strategies for proper oral presentation of scientific data;
3. critically analyze student presentations; and
4. attend and participate in the Department of Biology and Geology Seminar Series

BS students will prepare and give two 5-7 minute PowerPoint presentations throughout the semester. The initial presentation will cover the student's research topic and goals. The second presentation is expected to be more complete and contain data and analysis. The primary goal is to help the student prepare and become comfortable with their research presentation. As a result, each presentation will be evaluated critically by the audience (faculty and peers). The final outcome will be the formal presentation of the ABIO499 project at the end of the semester.

BA students will prepare one 5-7 minute PowerPoint presentation early in the semester that covers the student's research topic and goals. BA students will then prepare a formal poster presentation for faculty the end of the semester.

Methods of Evaluation: Performance in this course will be evaluated for a letter grade as outlined below.

5% for MFAT performance
25% for proposal preparation
10% for peer review participation
20% for first in-class presentation
35% for second in-class presentation or for poster
5% for attendance and participation in Thursday evening class

Grading Scale: A (90-100%), B (80-89%), C (70-79%), D (60-69%), F (0-59%)

Attendance Policy: Students should refer to the USCA Student Handbook regarding the number of absences permitted. In this regard, the instructor may impose a penalty for absences in excess of 25% of regularly scheduled class meetings by assigning an "F" for the course. Because the seminar series is a vital part of this course, students are expected to attend all scheduled Friday seminars for full credit. Students missing more than two of the Friday seminars will receive an "F" for the course.

Disability Statement: If you have a physical, psychological, and/or learning disability which might affect your performance in this class, please contact the Office of Disability Services, 126A B&E, (803) 641-3609, as soon as possible. The Disability Services Office will determine appropriate accommodations based on medical documentation.

CLASS SCHEDULE		
Date	Topic	Seminar
Jan 18	Receive proposal form, discuss MFAT	Regular Friday seminar
Jan 25	Grant work, Literature search (email 1 st draft by Jan 31) expectations for presentations and posters	MFAT exam at 1:00 pm
Jan 31	**1st draft of proposal due to 490 instructor	
Feb 1	peer review of proposals	Regular Friday seminar
Feb 8	Finished proposals due to advisor for signatures First presentation- Adkins, Clarke, Dorsey, Drinkwater, Dupert, Fritz-French	Regular Friday seminar
Feb 15	First presentation - Ghadawala, Grooms, Gunter, Gunter, Hall, Harris	Regular Friday seminar
Feb 22	First presentation - Harrison, Hicks, Mcdonald, Miles, Pierson, Sanders	Regular Friday seminar
Mar 1	First presentation - Sarka, Shealy, Simmons, Temple, Teuton, Vereen, Walker	Regular Friday seminar
Mar 8	no 6:00 pm meeting	No seminar
Mar 15	No class – Spring Break	No seminar
Mar 22	**all BA posters due** Final presentation - Adkins, Clarke, Dorsey, Dupert, Fritz-French, Ghadawala, Grooms, Hall, Harris, Harrison	Regular Friday seminar
Mar 29	Final presentation - Hicks, Mcdonald, Pierson, Sanders, Sarka, Shealy, Simmons, Temple, Teuton, Vereen, Walker	Regular Friday seminar
Apr 5	practice with individual advisors	ABIO 499 Independent Research Talks
Apr 12	practice with individual advisors	ABIO 499 Independent Research Talks
Apr 19	practice with individual advisors	SC Academy of Science meeting in Columbia, SC
Apr 26	practice with individual advisors	ABIO 499 Independent Research Talks