

# Biology 490: Senior Seminar – Disease Ecology and Evolution Syllabus

**Important Note:** This syllabus, along with course assignments and due dates, are subject to change. It is the student's responsibility to check Canvas for corrections or updates to the syllabus. Any changes will be clearly noted in a course announcement or through email.

## Course Information

### Instructor Information

**Instructor:** Sarah A. Orlofske

**Office:** TNR 446 and CBB 148

**Virtual Office Hours:** Monday 3-4:30 and Wednesday 10:30-12 via Zoom

Please schedule your appointment 24 hours in advance, by contacting me through the Canvas **Inbox** or **Help** menu located along the purple navigation bar on the left side of the screen. Please make the subject of the email Online Office Hours and Your Name.

**E-mail:** [Sarah.Orlofske@uwsp.edu](mailto:Sarah.Orlofske@uwsp.edu) (Email is my preferred contact method)

### Course Information

**Course Description:** Examine and critically review scientific literature. Subtitles vary.

**Credits:** 2

**Prerequisite:** Either BIOL 270 or CHEM 326; Biology and Biochemistry majors only; and senior standing.

### Course Learning Outcomes

Locate, critically read, synthesize, and discuss the primary literature dealing with multiple aspects of disease ecology and evolution.

Demonstrate the ability to write and orally present biological information that is articulate and grammatically correct with properly documented and organized ideas and data, appropriate to the specific audience.

Evaluate your own and others' written and oral communication skills by providing and applying useful feedback.

You will meet the outcomes listed above through a combination of the following activities in this course:

1. Each student should give at least two (2) oral presentations that make use of the primary literature. [CM, Cap, Biol #4]\*
2. Each student should produce at least one (1) written paper or report based on the primary literature that represents a Capstone Experience. The general expectation is that the paper will be at least eight (8) double-spaced pages in length and cite at least five (5) pieces of primary literature. [CM, Cap, Biol #4]
3. At least one (1) of the oral presentations or written assignments should ask students to include their own assessment of the value to society/broader impacts of the biological knowledge they are describing. [Biol #5]

## Textbook & Course Materials

**Required Text:** "Writing in the Biological Sciences", Third Edition. by Angelika Hoffmann (available at the UWSP Bookstore).

**Recommended Texts & Other Readings:** Scientific Articles and other readings will also be posted to Canvas.

## Expected Instructor Response Times

- I will attempt to respond to student emails within 24 hours. If you have not received a reply from me within 24 hours please resend your email.
  - \*\*\*If you have a general course question (not confidential or personal in nature), please post it to the Course Q&A Discussion Forum found on the course homepage. I will post answers to all general questions there so that all students can view them. Students are encouraged to answer each other's questions too.
- I will attempt to reply to and assess student discussion posts within 48 hours of discussions closing.
- I will attempt to grade written work within 72 hours, however longer written assignments may take me longer to read and assess.

## Student Expectations

In this course you will be expected to complete the following types of tasks.

- communicate via email
- read documents online

- view online videos
- participate in online discussions
- complete quizzes/activities online
- upload documents to Canvas to submit an assignment

## Topic Outline/Schedule

**Important Note:** Refer to the Canvas course home page for pertinent information. Activity and assignment details will be explained in detail within each week's corresponding Module. As tasks come due, they will appear in your "to do" list. If you have any questions, please contact your instructor.

Week	Date	Lecture	Reading Due	Assignment	Activity
1	1/29	Course policies and introduction, Scientific communication – Reading and Discussing Scientific Articles	<i>Hofmann Chapter 1 and 10</i>		
2	2/5	Overview of Disease Ecology and Evolution: Core Ecological Concepts, Methods, Cross – Cutting Themes	<i>Johnson et al. 2010</i>	Instructor led online discussion	
3	2/12	Accessing information databases, defining sources of information: annotated bibliographies.	<i>Hofmann Chapter 4</i>		
4	2/19	Scientific Writing skills - The anatomy of a scientific paper and outlines	<i>Hofmann Chapter 3 and 11</i>	<b>Topic and Annotated Bibliography DUE!</b>	
5	2/26	Student led discussions	<i>Hofmann Chapter 5</i>		Writing workshop: Statistical Analysis
6	3/5	Student led discussions	<i>Hofmann Chapter 4 (Part)</i>	<b>Outline DUE</b>	Writing workshop: Plagiarism
7	3/12	Student led discussions	<i>Hofmann Chapter 3</i>		Writing workshop: Composition
8	3/19	Student Led discussions	<i>Hofmann Chapter 2</i>	<b>First Draft DUE</b>	Writing Workshop: Style
	3/26	Spring Break!			

9	4/2	Scientific Communication: Oral presentations	<i>Hofmann Chapter 13</i>		Writing workshop: Peer-review
10	4/9	Student Data Presentation (5-6)		Peer Review DUE	
11	4/16	Student Data Presentation (5-6)			Writing workshop: Revising and Editing
12	4/23	Student Data Presentation (5-6)		Second Draft DUE	
13	4/30	Oral Final Presentations (5-6)			
14	5/7	Oral Final Presentations (5-6)			
15	5/14	Oral Final Presentations (5-6)		Final Review Paper DUE to CANVAS	

## Course Structure

This course will be delivered entirely online through the course management system Canvas. You will use your UWSP account to login to the course from the [Canvas Login Page](#). If you have not activated your UWSP account, please visit the [Manage Your Account](#) page to do so.

This course will be divided up into several segments and will predominantly be led by students, with the instructor serving as a mentor, guide and facilitator. This course is intended to let students explore in-depth a topic in biology they are passionate about and develop scientific reasoning skills. The primary goal of this course is to improve critical thinking and writing not to deliver content. The scientific content you gain will be driven by assignments and interaction not by lecture.

To encourage student engagement with each other and with the instructor, there will be frequent opportunities for interaction. Scientific discussions will take place in groups and many assignments will have peer-review components. Several assignments will give you the opportunity to choose to meet via zoom with the instructor for specific feedback.

Lecture, assignments and recordings for BIOL 490 are protected intellectual property at UW-Stevens Point. Students in this course may use the materials and recordings for their personal use related to participation in this class. Students may also take notes solely for their personal use. If a lecture is not already recorded, you are not authorized to record my lectures without my permission unless you are considered by the university to be a qualified

student with a disability requiring accommodation. [Regent Policy Document 4-1] Students may not copy or share lecture materials and recordings outside of class, including posting on internet sites or selling to commercial entities. Students are also prohibited from providing or selling their personal notes to anyone else or being paid for taking notes by any person or commercial firm without the instructor's express written permission. Unauthorized use of these copyrighted lecture materials and recordings constitutes copyright infringement and may be addressed under the university's policies, UWS Chapters 14 and 17, governing student academic and non-academic misconduct.

## Grading Policies

### Graded Course Activities

Click the **Assignments** link in Canvas to access assignment listing, categories and weights as applicable. Click the **Syllabus** link to see a chronological listing of assignments. Click the **Grades** link to see current grades. Overall assignments and accompanying points are listed below:

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Points</b>
Topic choice & Annotated Bibliography (Zoom)	15
Outline	10
Discussion lead	20
Discussion participation	30
Peer review	15
First draft of review (Peer review only)	20
Second draft of review (Instructor review only; Zoom)	25
Final review paper	50
Oral Data Presentation (Recording; Zoom)	20
Oral Presentation on Review Paper (Recording)	40
Course Participation and Professionalism (e.g. Instructor led presentation, peer-feedback on presentations, zoom meetings)	25
Writing Workshop Assignments (Completion X 6)	30
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>300</b>

If you believe I have made a mistake in grading your work, you must bring your concern to my attention within one week of receiving the graded

assignment and I will re-evaluate it. I will not reconsider the assigned grade after one week. Please note that your grade at the end of the class will be based solely on the assignments and exams turned in up to and including the final. No extra projects, no re-submissions, no re-takes or no extra credit will be given to raise a grade no matter how close you are to the next letter grade. Please do not ask; the answer will be no. In addition, attending tutoring or office hours, class participation, and overall effort in the class will help improve your understanding but will not be considered when assigning grades.

## Participation

Students are expected to participate in all online activities as listed on the course calendar.

If you do not submit a peer-review, attend your zoom meeting or participate in the instructor led paper discussion you will lose up to 5 points for each from your course participation and professionalism assignment.

## Complete Assignments

**All assignments for this course will be submitted electronically through Canvas unless otherwise instructed.** Assignments must be submitted by the given deadline or special permission must be requested from instructor *before the due date*. Extensions will not be given beyond the next assignment except under extreme circumstances.

All discussion assignments must be completed by the assignment due date and time. Late or missing discussion assignments will affect the student's grade.

## Late Work Policy

As an entirely online course, you will have flexibility in your schedule, but I will maintain and expect students to follow deadlines as stated in the syllabus and on CANVAS. THIS IS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL! The assignments you are submitting will affect other students (e.g. scientific paper discussions) and require peer-review, so missing or late assignments will be penalized 10%/day late. No assignments will be accepted after the final project deadline.

## Viewing Grades in Canvas

Points you receive for graded activities will be posted to Grades. Click on the Grades link to view your points. Your instructor will update the online grades each time a grading session has been complete—typically 72 hours to 1 week (in the case of extensive writing assignments) following the completion of an activity. You will see a visual indication of new grades posted on your Canvas home page under the link to this course.

## Letter Grade Assignment

Final grades will be assigned based on the following minimum cutoff percentages:

Letter Grade	Percentage
A	93-100%
A-	90-92.9%
B+	87-89.9%
B	83-86.9%
B-	80-82.9%
C+	77-79.9%
C	73-76.9%
C-	70-72.9%
D+	67-69.9%
D	60-66.9%
F	0-59.9%

## Technology

### Protecting your Data and Privacy

UW-System approved tools meet security, privacy, and data protection standards. For a list of approved tools, visit this website.

<https://www.wisconsin.edu/dle/external-application-integration-requests/>

Tools not listed on the website linked above may not meet security, privacy, and data protection standards. If you have questions about tools, contact the UWSP IT Service Desk at 715-346-4357.

Here are steps you can take to protect your data and privacy.

- Use different usernames and passwords for each service you use
- Do not use your UWSP username and password for any other services
- Use secure versions of websites whenever possible (HTTPS instead of HTTP)
- Have updated antivirus software installed on your devices

## Polices for Outline Online Programs

This course requires posting of work on line that is viewable only by your classmates. None of the work submitted online will be shared publicly. Some assignments require account creation for on line programs. The instructor of this course will not share your academic records (grades, student IDs). Confidentiality of student work is imperative, so you should not share the work of your peers publicly without their permission. By participating in these assignments, you are giving consent to sharing of your work with others in this class and you recognize there is a small risk of your work being shared online beyond the purposes of this course. Examples of additional risks include data mining by the company providing the service, selling of your email to third parties, and release of ownership of data shared through the tool. If you elect to not participate in these online assignments due to confidentiality concerns, then an alternate assignment will be offered to you. [UWSP Handbook Chapter 9 Section 5]

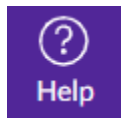
## Course Technology Requirements

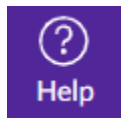
- View this website to see [minimum recommended computer and internet configurations for Canvas](#).
- You may also need access to the following tools to participate in this course.
  - o webcam
  - o microphone
  - o printer
  - o a stable internet connection (don't rely on cellular)

## UWSP Technology Support

- Visit with a [Student Technology Tutor](#)
- Seek assistance from the [IT Service Desk](#) (Formerly HELP Desk)
  - o IT Service Desk Phone: 715-346-4357 (HELP)
  - o IT Service Desk Email: [techhelp@uwsp.edu](mailto:techhelp@uwsp.edu)

## Canvas Support



Click on the  button in the global (left) navigation menu and note the options that appear:



Support Options	Explanations
<p><a href="#">Ask Your Instructor a Question</a> Submit a question to your instructor</p>	Use <b>Ask Your Instructor a Question</b> sparingly; technical questions are best reserved for Canvas personnel and help as detailed below.
<p><a href="#">Chat with Canvas Support (Student)</a> Live Chat with Canvas Support 24x7!</p>	<b>Chatting with Canvas Support (Student)</b> will initiate a <i>text chat</i> with Canvas support. Response can be qualified with severity level.
<p><a href="#">Contact Canvas Support via email</a> Canvas support will email a response</p>	<b>Contacting Canvas Support via email</b> will allow you to explain in detail or even upload a screenshot to show your particular difficulty.
<p><a href="#">Contact Canvas Support via phone</a> Find the phone number for your institution</p>	Calling the Canvas number will let Canvas know that you're from UWSP; phone option is available 24/7.
<p><a href="#">Search the Canvas Guides</a> Find answers to common questions</p>	<b>Searching the <a href="#">Canvas guides</a></b> connects you to documents that are searchable by issue. You may also opt for <b><a href="#">Canvas video guides</a></b> .
<p><a href="#">Submit a Feature Idea</a> Have an idea to improve Canvas?</p>	If you have an idea for Canvas that might make instructions or navigation easier, feel free to offer your thoughts through this <b>Submit a Feature Idea</b> avenue.

*All options are available 24/7; however, if you opt to email your instructor, s/he may not be available immediately.*

- Self-train on Canvas through the [Self-enrolling/paced Canvas training course](#)

## Course Policies

### Netiquette Guidelines

Netiquette is a set of rules for behaving properly online. Your instructor and fellow students wish to foster a safe online learning environment. All opinions and experiences, no matter how different or controversial they may be perceived, must be respected in the tolerant spirit of academic discourse. You are encouraged to comment, question, or critique an idea but you are not to attack an individual. Working as a community of learners, we can build a polite and respectful course community.

The following netiquette tips will enhance the learning experience for everyone in the course:

- Do not dominate any discussion.
- Give other students the opportunity to join in the discussion.
- Do not use offensive language. Present ideas appropriately.
- Be cautious in using Internet language. For example, do not capitalize all letters since this suggests shouting.
- Popular emoticons such as ☺ or / can be helpful to convey your tone but do not overdo or overuse them.
- Avoid using vernacular and/or slang language. This could possibly lead to misinterpretation.
- Never make fun of someone's ability to read or write.
- Share tips with other students.
- Keep an "open-mind" and be willing to express even your minority opinion. Minority opinions have to be respected.
- Think and edit before you push the "Send" button.
- Do not hesitate to ask for feedback.
- Using humor is acceptable

Adapted from:

Mintu-Wimsatt, A., Kernek, C., & Lozada, H. R. (2010). *Netiquette: Make it part of your syllabus*. Journal of Online Learning and Teaching, 6(1). Retrieved from [http://jolt.merlot.org/vol6no1/mintu-wimsatt\\_0310.htm](http://jolt.merlot.org/vol6no1/mintu-wimsatt_0310.htm)

Shea, V. (1994). Netiquette. Albion.com. Retrieved from: <http://www.albion.com/netiquette/book/>.

## **Build Rapport**

If you find that you have any trouble keeping up with assignments or other aspects of the course, make sure you let your instructor know as early as possible. As you will find, building rapport and effective relationships are key to becoming an effective professional. Make sure that you are proactive in informing your instructor when difficulties arise during the semester so that we can help you find a solution.

## **Understand When You May Drop This Course**

It is the student's responsibility to understand when they need to consider unenrolling from a course. Refer to the UWSP [Academic Calendar](#) for dates and deadlines for registration. After this period, a serious and compelling reason is required to drop from the course. Serious and compelling reasons includes: (1) documented and significant change in work hours, leaving student unable to attend class, or (2) documented and severe physical/mental illness/injury to the student or student's family.

## **Incomplete Policy**

Under emergency/special circumstances, students may petition for an

incomplete grade. An incomplete will only be assigned if student participation is impacted by a specific, identifiable, extenuating circumstance that affects a definable amount of work (one written assignment or exam). All incomplete course assignments must be completed within one semester.

## **Inform Your Instructor of Any Accommodations Needed**

If you have a documented disability and verification from the [Disability and Assistive Technology Center](#) and wish to discuss academic accommodations, please contact your instructor as soon as possible. It is the student's responsibility to provide documentation of disability to Disability Services and meet with a Disability Services counselor to request special accommodation *before* classes start.

The Disability and Assistive Technology Center is located in 609 Albertson Hall and can be contacted by phone at (715) 346-3365 (Voice) (715) 346-3362 (TDD only) or via email at [datctr@uwsp.edu](mailto:datctr@uwsp.edu)

### **Statement of Policy**

UW-Stevens Point will modify academic program requirements as necessary to ensure that they do not discriminate against qualified applicants or students with disabilities. The modifications should not affect the substance of educational programs or compromise academic standards; nor should they intrude upon academic freedom. Examinations or other procedures used for evaluating students' academic achievements may be adapted. The results of such evaluation must demonstrate the student's achievement in the academic activity, rather than describe his/her disability.

*If modifications are required due to a disability, please inform the instructor and contact the Disability and Assistive Technology Center in 609 ALB, or (715) 346-3365.*

## **Commit to Integrity**

As a student in this course (and at this university) you are expected to maintain high degrees of professionalism, commitment to active learning and participation in this class and also integrity in your behavior in and out of the classroom.

## **UWSP Academic Honesty Policy & Procedures**

### **Student Academic Disciplinary Procedures**

UWSP 14.01 Statement of principles

The board of regents, administrators, faculty, academic staff and students of the university of Wisconsin system believe that academic honesty and integrity are fundamental to the mission of higher education and of the university of Wisconsin system. The university has a responsibility to promote academic honesty and integrity and to develop procedures to deal

effectively with instances of academic dishonesty. Students are responsible for the honest completion and representation of their work, for the appropriate citation of sources, and for respect of others' academic endeavors. Students who violate these standards must be confronted and must accept the consequences of their actions.

UWSP 14.03 Academic misconduct subject to disciplinary action.

- (1) Academic misconduct is an act in which a student:
  - (a) Seeks to claim credit for the work or efforts of another without authorization or citation;
  - (b) Uses unauthorized materials or fabricated data in any academic exercise;
  - (c) Forges or falsifies academic documents or records;
  - (d) Intentionally impedes or damages the academic work of others;
  - (e) Engages in conduct aimed at making false representation of a student's academic performance; or
  - (f) Assists other students in any of these acts.
  
- (2) Examples of academic misconduct include, but are not limited to: cheating on an examination; collaborating with others in work to be presented, contrary to the stated rules of the course; submitting a paper or assignment as one's own work when a part or all of the paper or assignment is the work of another; submitting a paper or assignment that contains ideas or research of others without appropriately identifying the sources of those ideas; stealing examinations or course materials; submitting, if contrary to the rules of a course, work previously presented in another course; tampering with the laboratory experiment or computer program of another student; knowingly and intentionally assisting another student in any of the above, including assistance in an arrangement whereby any work, classroom performance, examination or other activity is submitted or performed by a person other than the student under whose name the work is submitted or performed.

## Religious Beliefs

Relief from any academic requirement due to religious beliefs will be accommodated according to UWS 22.03, with notification within the first three weeks of class.

## Face Coverings

- At all UW-Stevens Point campus locations, the wearing of face coverings is mandatory in all buildings, including classrooms, laboratories, studios, and other instructional spaces. Any student with a condition that impacts their use of a face covering should contact the [Disability and Assistive Technology Center](#) to discuss accommodations in classes. Please note that unless everyone is wearing a face covering, in-person classes cannot take place. This is university policy and not up to the discretion of individual instructors.

Failure to adhere to this requirement could result in formal withdrawal from the course.

Other Guidance:

- Please monitor your own health each day using [this screening tool](#). If you are not feeling well or believe you have been exposed to COVID-19, do not come to class; email your instructor and contact Student Health Service (715-346-4646).
  - As with any type of absence, students are expected to communicate their need to be absent and complete the course requirements as outlined in the syllabus.
- Maintain a minimum of 6 feet of physical distance from others whenever possible.
- Do not congregate in groups before or after class; stagger your arrival and departure from the classroom, lab, or meeting room.
- Wash your hands or use appropriate hand sanitizer regularly and avoid touching your face.
- Please maintain these same healthy practices outside the classroom.