

# BIOL 490 Sec. 7 Senior Seminar: Marine Biology

Fall 2016

T Th @ 4:00-4:50 PM in TNR 460

Instructor: Dr. Daniel L. Graf  
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(include "BIOL 490" in subject)

Course web site: <http://mypoint.uwsp.edu>  
Office Hours: M 2-4 PM, Th 10 AM-noon  
or by appointment

**General Course Description.** "Reserved for senior year biology and biochemistry majors as a capstone experience that emphasizes written and oral communication. Oral communication includes discussion of a current area in biology (topics vary with instructor). Examine and critically review scientific literature in that area, write a paper on a subject in that area, and present a seminar to the class on your chosen subject. Written assignments will include peer and instructor evaluations and revisions."

**Objectives.** The objective of this course is to provide experience with the communication of scientific information using various topics in marine biology as a vehicle for discussion.

### Learning Outcomes:

- You will be able to:
1. Locate, critically read, synthesize, and discuss the primary literature dealing with multiple aspects of marine biology.
  2. 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.
  3. Evaluate your own and others' written and oral communication skills by providing and applying useful feedback.

**Prerequisites.** Senior status. May not be repeated.

**Grading.** Your final grade for the course will be based upon 230 possible points. The distribution of points is explained in the table to the right.

Grades will be based upon the following percentages of the course total:

	100-94%	A	93-89%	A-	
88-87%	B+	86-83%	B	82-79%	B-
78-77%	C+	76-73%	C	72-69%	C-
68-67%	D+	66-63%	D	62-59%	D-
<58%	F				

<b>BIOL 490</b>	<b>points</b>
Discussion Prep	55
Presentation 1	20
Presentation 2	30
Pecha Kucha	10
Peer Evaluations	55
Topic Questions	10
Annotated Bibliography	20
Final Paper	30
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>230</b>

**REQUESTS FOR EXTRA POINTS WILL NOT BE HONORED.**

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**Presentations.** Twice during the term, each student will present a 15-minute talk on a paper dealing with their assigned topic in marine biology.

- The first presentation will occur sometime 20 September-25 October (20 points).
- The second presentation will occur sometime 8 November-15 December (30 points).

For each presentation, each student will also prepare a 200-250 word article summary. Instructions and grading rubrics will be provided in separate handouts.

**Pecha Kucha-style Presentations.** During Week 9 (1 & 3 November), the normal schedule will be disrupted for Pecha Kucha-style Presentations (10 points). Pecha Kuchas are a special kind of presentation that follow a specific format (20 Powerpoint slides, each auto-advancing after 20 seconds = 6 minutes, 40 seconds).

Specific instructions will be provided in a separate hand out.

**Term Paper.** Each student will complete a term paper that will be evaluated in four phases.

- Choice of Topic & Questions due on 30 September (10 points).
- Annotated Bibliography due on 28 October (20 points).
- Complete Drafts Due for Peer Evaluation on 29 November (5 points each)
- Term Paper due on 16 December (30 points).

In addition to your instructor's office hours, the Writing Lab at the UWSP Tutoring-Learning Center is available to help you.

<http://www.uwsp.edu/tlc/Pages/writingReadingTutorials.aspx>

**Biology Comprehensive Exam.** Satisfactory completion of this course requires the completion of the Biology Department Comprehensive Exam. Test scores are used to compare class averages among various populations of biology majors to assess general student learning. Scores will not be made available to you nor your instructor and will have no bearing on grades. However, your BIOL 490 grade will be withheld until the exam is taken. The exam will be offered at the following times: 7 or 8 December in TNR 120 @ 6 PM.

**Attendance.** YOUR COMMITMENT TO YOUR CLASSES IS AMONG THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS IN YOUR LIFE RIGHT NOW. You are expected to attend all seminar sessions. Absences relating to a student's religious beliefs will be accommodated according to UWS 22.03 (URL below), providing the student notifies the instructor within the first 3 weeks of classes regarding the specific dates she/he will be absent.

<http://www.uwsp.edu/stuaffairs/Documents/RightsRespons/SRR-2010/rightsChap22.pdf>

Our schedule is fairly ridged, with just enough sessions scheduled to accommodate everyone in the class. MAKE-UP PRESENTATIONS WILL BE ALLOWED IN CASES OF MEDICAL EMERGENCY, FOR WHICH YOU MUST PROVIDE WRITTEN DOCUMENTATION. It is your responsibility to contact Dr. Graf to make any arrangements for a make-up presentation.

**Academic Integrity.** Any misrepresentation of your work, including plagiarism, or cheating on exams will result in a zero (0) being recorded for that activity. Students are encouraged to become familiar with the UWS/UWSP Student Academic Standards and Disciplinary Procedures governing student academic conduct. This is available for download at:

<http://www.uwsp.edu/stuaffairs/Documents/RightsRespons/SRR-2010/rightsChap14.pdf>

- Copying whole passages written by someone else is plagiarism. Even if you right-click in Word to use the thesaurus and replace some words.
- Cobbling together sentences from various sources and presenting them as your own is plagiarism.
- Quoting passages is not appropriate in this class. Use your own words.

**Classroom Conduct.** It is disruptive to come late to class, read extra-curricular media in class, or use cell phones (and other electronic devices) during class time. The expectation is that you come to each session ready to participate through discussion, asking questions, and offering helpful feedback to your peers.

**Disabilities.** Students with disabilities are welcome and encouraged in this class. Students with disabilities should contact the Disability and Assistive Technology Center during the first two weeks of the semester if they wish to request specific accommodations.

<http://www.uwsp.edu/disability/Pages/default.aspx>

## BIOL 490.7 Senior Seminar: Marine Biology

Wk	Date	Day	Topic/Activity/Project
1	6-Sep	T	Welcome to BIOL 490: Marine Biology!
	8-Sep	Th	Topics & Resources, and Topic Drafting
2	13-Sep	T	TBA
	15-Sep	Th	Near-Shore Habitats Group Discussion
3	20-Sep	T	Near-Shore Habitats Student Presentations
	22-Sep	Th	Nekton Group Discussion
4	27-Sep	T	Nekton Student Presentations
	29-Sep	Th	Plankton Group Discussion
	30-Sep	F	<b>Topic Questions Due!</b>
5	4-Oct	T	Plankton Student Presentations
	6-Oct	Th	Benthos Group Discussion
6	11-Oct	T	Benthos Student Presentations
	13-Oct	Th	Deep Sea/Abyss Group Discussion
7	18-Oct	T	Deep Sea/Abyss Student Presentations
	20-Oct	Th	Coral Reef Communities Group Discussion
8	25-Oct	T	Coral Reef Communities Student Presentations
	27-Oct	Th	Marine Invertebrate Reproduction Group Discussion
	28-Oct	F	<b>Annotated Bibliographies Due!</b>
9	1-Nov	T	Pecha Kucha-style Presentations
	3-Nov	Th	Pecha Kucha-style Presentations
10	8-Nov	T	Marine Invertebrate Reproduction Student Presentations
	10-Nov	Th	Productivity & Food Webs Group Discussion
11	15-Nov	T	Productivity & Food Webs Student Presentations
	17-Nov	Th	Keystone Predators/Ecosystem Engineers Group Discussion
12	22-Nov	T	Keystone Predators/Ecosystem Engineers Student Presentations
	24-Nov	Th	THANKSGIVING — NO SEMINAR
13	29-Nov	T	<b>1st Draft of Final Paper Due!</b>
	1-Dec	Th	Anthropogenic Effects: Fisheries/Harvest Group Discussion
14	6-Dec	T	Anthropogenic Effects: Fisheries/Harvest Student Presentations
	7-Dec	W	<b>Biology Dept. Comprehensive Exam, TNR 120 @ 6 PM 7 or 8 Dec.</b>
	8-Dec	Th	Anthropogenic Effects: Pollution & Climate Change Group Discussion
15	13-Dec	T	Anthropogenic Effects: Pollution & Climate Change Student Presentations
	15-Dec	Th	Bio-Prospecting & Applied Marine Biology Student Presentations
	16-Dec	F	<b>Final Paper Due!</b>