

BIOLOGY 490/690, SECTION 6

TROPICAL PLANT BIOLOGY FALL SEMESTER, 2012

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Office hours: 10:00-11:00 AM, Mondays and Wednesdays or most any time I am in my office.

Classroom: TNR 300, 1:00-1:50 P.M. on Wednesdays

The main goal of this seminar is to contribute to your general professional development; secondarily, to help you increase your knowledge in several topics in tropical plant biology. You will gain experience in the areas of literature search, scientific format, and preparation of an oral presentation. Attendance at all scheduled classes is required to succeed in this seminar; 3 points will be deducted for each absence, except for valid reasons for excused absence such as documented health emergencies, death of immediate family members, or UWSP sponsored events (I must be informed before class when possible). You are responsible for honest representation of your work, and any plagiarism or other academic misconduct is subject to the penalties outlined in UWS Ch. 14. Cheating will not be tolerated; please read the following link (it is the same for all your other classes here): UWS/UWSP Chapter 14, Student Academic Standards and Disciplinary Procedures with this web page link: <http://www.uwsp.edu/admin/stuaffairs/rights/rightsChap14.pdf>

For her/his seminar, each student will be required to:

1. Pick a topic of interest in island biogeography; topics must be chosen, discussed with, and approved by the instructor by **Wednesday, 26 September 2012**.
2. Do a literature search on the selected topic. **At least ten references are required. Four scientific journal articles and two books are mandatory; the other four references may be web pages if you so choose. Discuss one scientific journal article in some detail. Make this article available to the instructor at least one week prior to your seminar; I will distribute it to the class.**
3. Prepare a short written report (at least one page single-spaced, excluding references) following the scientific format, to be turned in on the day of the oral presentation.
4. Give the oral presentation. The presentation should last about 20 minutes and will be followed by 5 minutes open for questions. Your presentation should include background material on the research question, a summary of the studies, and a critical evaluation of the research.
5. Participate in class activities and open times for questions after oral presentations. After the presentation, the presenting student will lead a class discussion on the topic; the presenter will encourage other students to share their evaluations of the studies. Non-presenting students will read and critically evaluate the research study before the seminar. You are responsible for actively participating in the class discussion and for asking the presenters questions about the study.

Also, you will be required to turn in your resumé and a cover letter (for an imaginary job in the field of your choice) for critiquing.

Grading criteria: (MINUS 3 points for every seminar missed)

Resumé and cover letter (draft due on September 26 th ; final due on Nov. 28 th)	10 points
Seminar – Written report and class handout	20 points
Seminar - Oral presentation	40 points

Active participation in seminar discussions	30 points
TOTAL	100 points

Schedule

September

- 5 What is expected in this course; the field of tropical plant biology. Get your resumes ready!
- 12 What is scholarship; citing references; plagiarism; presentation techniques.
- 19 Library resources available (presented in LRC); choose topics and dates for your presentation.
- 26 Draft cover letter and resumé due; “polishing” your resumé. CHOICE OF SEMINAR TOPIC DUE.

October

- 3 Meet individually with students A-F to discuss seminar topic
- 10 Meet individually with students G-R to discuss seminar topic
- 17 Meet individually with students S-Z to discuss seminar topic
- 24 Begin student seminars; no. 1 and 2
- 31 Seminars 3 and 4

November

- 7 Seminars 5 and 6
- 14 Seminars 7 and 8
- 21 Seminars 9 and 10 (+3 extra credit points for attendance this class period only.
- (22 Thanksgiving)
- 28 Turn and discuss final revised resúmes and cover letters.

December

- 5 Seminars 11 and 12
- 12 Seminar 13 and course evaluations

Literature Citations

For journals:

Author(s) Last Name, First Initials. Date of publication. Title of article (Capitalize only the first word of title (and proper nouns). Journal name and volume number (there is usually one volume per year): Page range.

Example: Soderstrom, T.R. 1984. In quest of the pygmy bamboos. Fairchild Tropical Garden Bulletin 39: 6-15.

For books:

Author(s) Last Name, First Initials. Date of publication. Title of book (first letter in each word capitalized except prepositions). Name of publisher. City of publication. Number of pages.

Example: Judziewicz, E.J., L.G. Clark, X. Londoño & M.J. Stern. 1999. American Bamboos. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D.C. 392 pp.