

Instructors:	Virginia Freire	John Hardy
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Office hours:	M 15:30-17:30, T 10:00-11:00 Or by appointment	T, R 10:00-11:00 or by appointment

Lecture/Lab: W 15:30-17:20, TNR 460

Goal: The goal of this seminar is to help you gain experience in useful professional skills (oral presentations, scientific writing, application of the scientific method, keeping a research journal, analysis of data, poster preparation and presentation at a scientific meeting), while increasing your understanding of different topics in horticulture through reading assignments, discussions and hands on research.

Attendance: Students will be expected to participate in **all** course activities.

Grading: Evaluation will be based on a research project, two presentations, and participation.

Scale: Your grade will be based on a total of 100 points.
The grading scale for the course is:

93%	A	80%	B-	62%	D+
90%	A-	75%	C+	55%	D
87%	B+	70%	C	< 55	F
83%	B	65%	C-		

Contents: The course will consist of three primary components:

1. Experimental Research Project (60 points):

Working in pairs, students will select, design and conduct a horticultural experiment. After selecting a topic, you will perform a literature review on the subject and present a written research proposal. The final proposal will be presented to the class as a power point by both members of the group. All work, including setups, weekly observations and results will be recorded in a research journal that will be turned in to your instructors at the end of the semester. Each group will prepare a poster with the results of their experiment. Posters will be presented electronically in class and will also be displayed and presented to invited biology students and professors. Guidelines for research proposal, journal keeping and poster design and presentation will be provided.

Assignments will be graded as follows:

Research proposal draft	10 points
Research proposal presentation	15 points
Journal	10 points
Poster and presentations	25 points

2. Journal Article Presentation and Discussion (20 points)

Each student will research a horticultural topic in the scientific literature, choose one scientific paper, deliver a short presentation (do not use power point), and lead a class discussion. Time available for this activity is 25 to 35 minutes per student. Both instructors need to have access to your journal article 2 weeks in advance. One week before your presentation you will need to provide copies of your journal article to the class. We can provide access to copy machines if needed.

3. Participation (20 points)

Includes attendance, preparation and participation in class discussions and other activities.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

09/05	Introduction Guidelines for class assignments Tips for efficient journal keeping and presentation skills. Research topic discussion Begin design of Student Experiments
09/12	Meet at the library, room 316 Library resources, how to perform an effective literature search Research your own topics
09/19	Research Proposals first draft due. Proposals critique Quick introduction to statistical analysis.
09/26	Research Proposals final draft due Set up Student Experiments
10/3-10/10	Proposal presentation to the class
10/17-11/14	Journal Article Presentations Student Experiments – Data collection
11/21	Turn in written report with poster contents and pictures. There will not be class. Happy Thanksgiving!
11/28	How to prepare a good poster. Tips for resume writing, effective cover letters and job interviews.
12/05	Electronic Poster Session
12/12	Public Poster Session Pot-luck dinner