

15 Spring

SENIOR SEMINAR

CRN # 27485

BIOL 4920 SECTION 02

Science, room 127 R 12-12:50 p.m.

1 credit

Instructor: Dr. Jennifer Ciaccio. Campus phone: 652-7779. Email: ciaccio@dixie.edu

Office: Science room 211. Office hours are **9-10 TR, 11-11:30 MTWR** or by appointment.

Description: Review of current research and literature in the general fields of biological science. Topics and themes will vary dependent upon the instructor. Enrollment is limited to twelve students per section. Each student will be expected to lead the seminar/discussion during one week and submit a synthesis paper on a given biological topic. Open only to seniors or by permission of the department chair. Prerequisites: Senior standing and ENGL 2010 or permission of the department chair.

Biology Program Goals and Learning Outcomes

Goal 2: Demonstrate the capacity to think independently and critically

- Outcome 3: Students will evaluate scientific ideas and information while maintaining receptivity to potential alternative predications.

Goal 3: Effectively convey scientific literacy through various mediums of communication

- Outcome 4: Reading Comprehension: Students will analyze and critique scientific literature: identifying hypotheses, critiquing methods, interpreting data and results, and articulating the context of discussions.
- Outcome 6: Oral Presentation: Students will publicly present scientific information covering specific topics in the biological sciences. Presentations will adequately communicate data and information in a clear and logical format.

Grading Policy: There will be 400 points possible for this course. Final grades will be based on these ranges:

B+ 87-89.99%	C+ 77-79.99%	D+ 67-69.99%	F <60%
A 94-100%	B 84-86.99%	C 74-76.99%	D 64-66.99%
A- 90-93.99%	B- 80-83.99%	C- 70-73.99%	D- 60-63.99%

Participation in class discussions 150

Presentation 75

Discussion Leadership 75

On-line thread 100

A schedule of classes will be drawn up on the first day of class. At that time the class will decide on the topics covered and individual presentation schedules.

Presentations:

During the first week of class, topics will be assigned to students. During the second week of class, students will find a research article corresponding to their assigned topic. During the assigned class period, the topic leader will present a short background overview of the topic (5-10 minutes) and will then lead the discussion of the assigned paper.

Assessment Test:

During finals week at the designated finals time, students will take a program assessment test. Although the results of the test will not factor into their grade, students must take the test in order to pass the class.

College approved absences: Dixie College Policy explains in detail what needs to happen if you anticipate being absent from class because of a college-sponsored activity (athletic events, club activities, field trips for other classes, etc). Please read this information and follow the instructions carefully! The policy can be found at:
<http://www.dixie.edu/humanres/policy/sec5/523.html>

Dmail: Important class and college information will be sent to your Dmail account. This information includes your DSC bill, financial aid/scholarship notices, notification of dropped classes, reminders of important dates and events, and other information critical to your success in this class and at DSC. All DSC students are automatically assigned a Dmail account. If you don't know your user name and password, go to www.dixie.edu and select "Dmail," for complete instructions. You will be held responsible for information sent to your Dmail email, so please check it often.

Disability Accommodations: Students with medical, psychological, learning or other disabilities desiring reasonable academic adjustment, accommodations, or auxiliary aids to be successful in this class will need to contact the DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER Coordinator (Baako Wahabu) for eligibility determination. Proper documentation of impairment is required in order to receive services or accommodations. DRC is located in the North Plaza Building. Visit or call 652-7516 to schedule appointment to discuss the process. DRC Coordinator determines eligibility for and authorizes the provision of services.

College resources: Several college resources are available to help you succeed. Check out the links for each one to get more information.

If you need help understanding the content of your courses, go to the Tutoring Center located on the 4th floor of the Holland Centennial Commons in Room 431. You can visit them online at <http://dsc.dixie.edu/tutoring/>

If you need help writing papers, go to the Writing Center on the fourth floor of the Holland Centennial

Commons in room 421. You can also visit them online at http://new.dixie.edu/english/dsc_writing_center.php

If you need to use a computer to do schoolwork on campus, go to the Smith Computer Center or in the Dixie College library on the second, mezzanine, or third floors of the HCC.

If you are assigned to take a test in the Testing Center, go to the North Plaza. You can get information on their website at <http://new.dixie.edu/testing/>

The Library has all kinds of information and resources. Visit the Dixie State College Library on the 2nd, and 3rd floors of the Holland Centennial Commons, or go to the library website at <http://library.dixie.edu/>

Classroom expectations: It is the responsibility of an instructor to manage the classroom environment to ensure a good learning climate for all students. Appropriate student behavior includes paying attention when the professor is talking, following instructions, and speaking and acting respectfully to the professor and fellow students. If your behavior is disruptive, I will first let you know verbally that you are behaving inappropriately. If it continues, I will send you written notice that your behavior must change. As a last resort, I will drop you from the class. For more details, please see the disruptive behavior policy at: <http://www.dixie.edu/humanres/policy/sec3/334.html>

Academic integrity: I believe that most students are honest, and I don't want to punish everyone for the few that aren't; however, I will not tolerate cheating. If I discover that you have cheated, you will be given a grade of zero for that assignment or exam and you will not be allowed to make it up. Repeated or aggravated offenses will result in failing the course. Any time you take credit for work you did not do, you are cheating. This includes getting the answers to homework problems from someone else, copying information from a library or internet source and presenting it as if it were your own words (plagiarism), looking at someone else's answers on an exam, and asking someone who has already taken a test about what questions it contains. I have tried to design assignments and exams to minimize the temptation to cheat, but it is not my job to prevent you from cheating. If you cheat and are not caught, it doesn't mean that you "beat the

system." It means you violated the Student Code and forfeited your integrity, whether or not you are caught. You will pay the price, sooner or later. (See "Student Code" <http://www.dixie.edu/humanres/policy/sec5/533.html#appeals>).