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**Biology 300**

**Biology Seminar**

**Spring 2024**

**Kylie Stover**

Office: Dobbs 202 **Class Time**

Email: kylie.stover@reinhardt.edu Fridays, 11 – 11:50 am

**Visiting Hours:**

Monday 9 am - 12 pm

Tuesday 12:30 – 3:30 pm

**Catalog Course Description**

This course will address current and historical primary research with discussions of methods and conclusions. Students will locate, read and critically evaluate primary research articles for credit. Completion of BIO 120 is required for registration in BIO 300.

**Course Purpose**

The Biology Seminar course at Reinhardt has typically focused on a particular topic of interest to the instructor. The primary topic of this semester’s seminar course will be contemporary issues and research in marine biology. In this course we will examine several types of marine animals and will explore topics from conservation to ecology of the marine environment.

**Credit Hour Description**

BIO 300 is a 1-credit hour course. Over the 15-week semester, we will spend 50 minutes per week in lectures, class discussions, and quizzes (12.5 hours for the semester). Out-of-class work includes reading and preparation for quizzes and class discussions and will require around 100 minutes (~1.5 hrs) per week (25 hours for the semester).

**Student Learning Outcomes**

1. Students will demonstrate an ability to comprehend, summarize and evaluate primary research articles. (**PLO 2)**

2. Students will demonstrate an ability to intelligently discuss primary research articles with peers and professors. (**PLO 2)**

3. Students will develop an understanding of the various types of plant-animal interactions. (**PLO 6)**

**Academic Integrity**

All students are expected to adhere to the highest standards of academic integrity, and to abide by the Reinhardt Honor Code. Therefore, cheating will NOT be tolerated in this course! Keep your eyes to yourself during exams and quizzes!

Plagiarism, defined as using as using the ideas and phrases of others without crediting them, will NOT be tolerated in this course or on campus! To avoid such academic dishonesty, you must use an in-text citation for all ideas drawn from your reading and research, including research in encyclopedias and online, *even when you have restated those ideas in your own words*. Evidence of plagiarism will result in failure of the assignment or possibly the class. In addition, you will be reported to the Office of the Provost, which may result in further consequences, such as placing a designation of “academic warning” on your official transcript, academic suspension or expulsion for academic reasons.

**Evaluation and Grading**

**Scientific Literature Assignments (20%):** Students will be expected to complete one journal article summary, and to lead the discussion for the article they have chosen to summarize.

**Participation (40%):**Most class periods will involve discussion of an assigned reading. Each student will be expected to contribute to each discussion in some way, whether by asking a question or making a comment. Students who do not participate in the discussion will not receive credit for that day.

**Presentation (15%):**Each student will be required to complete a professional development presentation. Students will share with the class a portfolio relating to their intended career. Presentations will be take place during the last three class periods.

**Quizzes (20%):** There will be a brief quiz on each of the assigned readings. The quizzes will be general in nature and are merely an assessment to determine which students actually read the article(s) assigned.

**Discretionary (5%):** The discretionary score will address students’ general attitude towards the course and behavior during class meetings. Five points are available for this score. Each unexcused absence will result in the loss of one point. In addition, excessive whining, complaining, chatting and cell phone use will all negatively impact students’ discretionary score.

**Grading Scale:**

89.5 – 100% A

79.5 – 89.4% B

69.5 – 79.4% C

59.5 – 69% D

Below 59.4% F

**Course Expectations**

**Class Attendance:** Students are expected to attend each class meeting, especially since we will have so few meetings. A large portion of your grade will be based on participation/discussion, and you must be present to receive credit for participation for that class meeting. If you must miss a class, please LET ME KNOW IN ADVANCE if possible.

**Behavior:** Excessive chatting is a hindrance to the quality of the course, the professor’s teaching ability and your fellow students’ ability to learn. I reserve the right to ask you to leave if your talking becomes too much of a distraction and you will be counted as an unexcused absence for that day.

**Electronics:** Biology Seminar will be an ELECTRONICS FREE ZONE!!!!! Cell phones should be turned off and put away once you enter class. You are young adults preparing for the professional world and should behave as such.

**Attitude:** You are expected to bring a positive attitude to this course, and you should come to each class meeting expecting to learn. Whining and complaining are counterproductive and will negatively impact your participation score. I would rather you stay home than come to class with a poor attitude.

**Effort:** This course is a requirement for biology majors, so I expect all students to bring their best effort. Remember that if you earn a D in any of your Biology courses, you will not be granted a Reinhardt Biology degree. *You will reap what you sow.* If you sow 100% effort into this course, you will likely reap an A.

**Accessibility:** “The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a documented disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Academic Support Office (ASO). Reinhardt University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. Therefore, if you are seeking classroom accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act, you are required to register with the Academic Support Office (ASO). ASO is located in the basement of Lawson Building. Phone is (770)720-5567. To receive academic accommodations for this class, please obtain the proper ASO letters/forms.”

**Communication:** The majority of my communication with the class will be via Remind, a program that allows me to send course updates as text messages to your phone. Any emails from me will be sent to your Reinhardt accounts, so remember to check your Reinhardt email often. If you send me an email, always include a subject line, proper capitalization and punctuation, and complete sentences. It is also best to include a greeting and a closing in the initial email. Subsequent responses may be more informal. I do not guarantee that I will respond to improperly formatted emails.

**Course Schedule and Calendar**

**Note:** This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. If large changes occur, a new syllabus will be distributed on the course website and through email notification. Some changes, such as change of date, will only be announced in-class or through email.

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| **Week** | **Date** | **Topic** |
| 1 | Jan 12th | Syllabus Day |
| 2 | Jan 19th | Journal article discussion |
| 3 | Jan 26th | Journal article discussion |
| 4 | Feb 2nd | Journal article discussion |
| 5 | Feb 9th | Journal article discussion |
| 6 | Feb 16th | Journal article discussion |
| 7 | Feb 23rd | Journal article discussion |
| 8 | March 1st | Journal article discussion |
| 9 | March 8th | SPRING BREAK - NO CLASS! |
| 10 | March 15th | Journal article discussion |
| 11 | March 22nd | Journal article discussion |
| 12 | March 29th | Good Friday – NO CLASS! |
| 13 | April 5th | Presentations |
| 14 | April 12th | Presentations |
| 15 | April 19th | Presentations |