

**Fayetteville State University  
College of Arts and Sciences  
Department of Biology  
BIOL 320 Biology Seminar  
Fall 2010**

**I. Locator Information**

Instructor	Dr. Stephen J. Salek
Credit Hours	3.00
Course Location & Meeting Time:	F 1:00-1:50 LS 205
Total Contact Hours	1.00
Office Hours	MW 9-11 and 12-1, R 11-12 and 2-3
Office Location	LSA 340 or LSA 332
Office Telephone	use email before calling 672-2103 (lab) 672-1050 (office)
E-mail	ssalek@uncfsu.edu

Course Website: You must log on through FSU's Blackboard Gateway @ <http://blackboard.uncfsu.edu/>. You will need your network login and password for access.

**FSU Policy on Electronic Mail:** Fayetteville State University provides to each student, free of charge, an electronic mail account that is easily accessible via the Internet. The university has established email as the primary mode of communicating with enrolled students about impending deadlines, upcoming events, and other information important to student progression at the university. Students are responsible for reading their email on a regular basis to remain aware of important information disseminated by the university. The university maintains open-use computer laboratories throughout the campus that can be used to access electronic mail. Students making inquiries via email to FSU faculty and staff about academic records, grades, bills, financial aid, and other matters of a confidential nature are required to use their FSU email account.

Rules and regulations governing the use of FSU email may be found at: <http://www.uncfsu.edu/PDFs/EmailPolicyFinal.pdf>

**II. COURSE DESCRIPTION**

A course including discussions of modern biological concepts and current topics, with presentations of papers by students on special problems in biology. Prerequisite: Junior Classification The Biology 320 website will be used to enhance the course and may be accessed at: [http://blackboard.uncfsu.edu](http://blackboard.uncfsu.edu/). You must login using your normal university login and password.

**III. Disabled Student Services:** In accordance with Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ACA) of 1990, if you have a disability or think you have a disability to please contact the Center for Personal Development in the Spaulding Building,

#### **IV. TEXTBOOK**

None

#### **V. Student Learning Outcomes**

The following topics are emphasized: physiology, both cellular and general and behavior. The student should acquire understanding of and have opportunities to :

Demonstrate the ability to make science personally relevant to student experiences. This will be measured using a rubric applied to each students' presentation.

Translate science content into meaningful instruction using science equipment, materials, print and media resources, and technology. Students will make powerpoints from scientific articles. This will be measured using a rubric applied to each students' presentation.

#### **VI. Course Requirements and Evaluation Criteria**

**There are new course policies in this syllabus, please read it carefully.**

##### **I grades**

Incompletes will be given in extraordinary circumstances only. In the event that an "I" is issued, the student must submit a list of all incomplete assessments by email. In addition, the student must research and indicate the date when the incomplete will be turned to an F if the work is not turned in. The instructor will reply confirming or correcting this list and date. When the work has been completed, the student must contact me via email and indicate when the work will be turned in. When we agree on a date and time, the student must submit all of the work at one time (by email). I will not grade any assessments that are turned in days, months, or weeks apart. All assignments must be completed by or before the date and time listed on the schedule page. These dates and times will be clearly stated in the syllabus and on the schedule page. I will not accept late work, and will issue a zero for all late work with the exceptions listed below (see "Tardy and Incomplete work"). All complaints and concerns should initially be made to me before bringing them to any other university employee. **All students must send me an email stating that they agree to the terms in this syllabus.**

##### **ATTENDANCE AND WITHDRAWAL**

You are expected to complete all work. If you are not able to complete your assignments or presentations during a particular week, they must be turned in prior to that week, not after that week. If you must withdraw from the course it is YOUR responsibility to complete the necessary paperwork for the withdrawal. If you stop completing assignments without officially withdrawing from the course, you will receive the grade earned based on your point total (at the time you stop attending) divided by the maximum points (as if you had completed ALL work). This usually means a grade of F will be recorded. If you do not interact with the course by 8/31/10, you will be considered a no show (see below) and an interim grade of "X" will be entered. It is the student's responsibility to carefully look at all due dates at the beginning of the semester and adjust their schedules to accommodate assessment deadlines.

##### **Tardy and Incomplete work**

I do not accept late work without a reasonable excuse. Examples of reasonable excuses include unexpected illnesses accompanied by a doctor's note, or the death of an immediate family member. If you submit your work after this deadline, I will not read it unless you have provided a sanctioned excuse.

## EVALUATION CRITERIA

Individual Presentation	40%
Group Presentation	40%
Topic submission and Outline	5%
Midterm	5%
Final Exam	10%

The grading scale will be as follows:

A = 92 - 100%

B = 83 - 91%

C = 73 - 82%

D = 64 - 72%

F = less than 64%

## REVISION OF GRADES – STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

The following revisions became effective on August 16, 2007.

WN GRADE DISCONTINUED:

- WN - Withdrawal due to non-attendance - discontinued, effective August 16, 2007. STUDENTS: Do not expect faculty to withdraw you for non-attendance. Drop or withdraw\* from classes according to the deadlines published in the catalog. \*See *warning below about class withdrawals*.

NEW TYPE OF GRADE: INTERIM GRADES – (New name for “midterm grade,” with additional purposes). Interim grades will be assigned from the first week of the semester until the deadline for class withdrawals. Interim grades are used for informational and warning purposes only; they are not part of your permanent transcript and have no effect on your GPA. Instructors may assign interim grade of F to warn students of poor academic performance or they may assign “X” or “EA” grades. (See below for explanations) After midterm, faculty will assign all students an interim grade of A – F to inform students of their academic status as of midterm.

- INTERIM GRADE X = NO SHOW – Assigned to students who are on a class roster, but never attend class. For warning purposes only; NOT a final grade. STUDENTS: Check interim grades early in the semester. If you have an X grade, either begin attending the class or withdraw\* from it. \*See *warning below about class withdrawals*. If you do not take action in response to an X grade, you will receive a final grade of FN. (See “FN” below)
- INTERIM GRADE EA = EXCESSIVE ABSENCES - Assigned to students whose class absences exceed 10% of the total contact hours. For warning purposes only, NOT a final grade. STUDENTS: Check your interim grades often. If you have an “EA” grade for a class, you are in jeopardy of failure if you do not take immediate actions. Either resume attending the class or withdraw from it. \*See *warning below about class withdrawals*.

NEW FINAL GRADE:

- FN = FAILURE DUE TO NON-ATTENDANCE – Assigned to students who are on class roster, but never attend the class. An FN grades is equivalent to an F grade in the calculation of the GPA.

STUDENTS: You must attend (or withdraw\* from) all the classes for which you are enrolled. \*See warning below about class withdrawals.

**WARNING ABOUT CLASS WITHDRAWALS:**

- When you withdraw from a class, you are wasting your money and time. You receive no refund for withdrawing from individual classes and you slow your progress toward degree completion.
- If you withdraw from or fail more than one-third of your classes, you will no longer be eligible for financial aid.
- STRIVE TO EARN CREDIT FOR ALL THE CLASSES IN WHICH YOU ENROLL; WITHDRAW FROM CLASSES ONLY WHEN IT IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY!

Final Grades – This policy became effective on August 16, 2007

Grade	Credit Hours	Quality Points	Meaning
A	Hours attempted and earned	4 per credit hour;	Exceptionally high
B	Hours attempted and earned	3 per credit hour	Good
C	Hours attempted and earned	2 per credit hour	Satisfactory
D	Hours attempted and earned	1 per credit hour	Marginally passing
F	Hours attempted – Not earned	0 per credit hour	Failing
FN	Hours attempted – Not earned	0 per credit hour	Failing due to non-attendance. (Student registered, but <u>never</u> attended.)
W	Hours attempted – Not earned	No impact on GPA	Class withdrawal prior to deadline (see Academic Calendar)
P	Hours attempted and earned	No impact on GPA	Satisfactory - Assigned only in classes specified as Pass/Fail
WU	Hours attempted – Not earned	No impact on GPA	Withdrawal from all classes for semester or term
AU	Hours attempted – Not earned	No impact on GPA	Auditing

Each student will give two presentations for the class. One will be an individual presentation and one will be a group presentation. Each presentation will be rated on a 1 to 5 scale in several categories (see "Presentation Evaluation" sheet).

Each student must have the instructor's approval for seminar topics that are chosen. **Topics and rough outlines for individual presentations must be submitted by 1/28/10!** In this section of BIOL 320 presentations must be on some aspect of CORAL PHYSIOLOGY, PHYSIOLOGY or ANIMAL BEHAVIOR. A presentation should last at least 10 minutes but no longer than 20 minutes. Time should be made available for questions and discussion after each presentation. Presentations must be on a paper published in a scientific journal and reporting on original research done by the author or authors. Plagiarism is not allowed. There are instances, of course, where it is appropriate and useful to quote authors either directly or by paraphrase. Failure to note the source, however, is plagiarism and can result in a failing grade for a presentation. Each student is required to provide a list of references used for his/her presentation on the day the presentation is given. A copy of this list should be provided for the instructor and for each student in the class. Grades will be based on presentations

topic selection, outlines, a mid-term exam, and a final exam. The final exam will be comprehensive. Any student who misses an exam and wishes to take a make-up exam is required to present a valid written excuse for missing an exam. Students are expected to attend all classes. A student can be absent from two classes without penalty but students should realize that exam material will come from student presentations. Five per cent will be subtracted from the final grade for each unexcused absence beyond the second. Any student who arrives more than ten minutes late will be counted as late. Any student who leaves a class more than ten minutes early will be counted as leaving early. A total of three late arrival or three early departures will be counted as *one* absence. Any student requesting an excused absence should provide documentation in writing that accounts for the absence.

#### Tentative Schedule

Date	Activity
8/20	Course introduction
8/27	Dr. Salek's Talk / Powerpoint tutorial Homework- select topic, make an outline and turn in by 9/10)
9/3 outlines.	Scheduling of presentations. Review of
9/10	Individual presentations
9/17	Individual presentations
9/24	Individual presentations
10/1	Individual presentations/ Organization of groups for group presentations
10/8	Midterm
10/15	FALL BREAK
10/22	Individual presentations
10/29	Individual presentations
11/5	Group presentations
11/12	Group presentations
11/19	Group presentations
11/26	Thanksgiving
12/3	Final exam
12/10	Final Meeting at 12:00 PM

**\*\* The instructor reserves the right to alter this schedule at any time. You will be informed of any changes by blackboard and email.\*\***

## List of Journals

Animal Behaviour, Animal Learning & Behavior, Applied Animal Behaviour Science / [Electronic Resource], The Behavioral And Brain Sciences, Behaviour, Behavioural Processes, Brain, Behavior And Evolution, Hormones And Behavior, The Journal Of Comparative And Physiological Psychology, Journal Of Comparative Psychology, Journal Of Experimental Psychology: / Animal Behavior Processes, Neuroscience And Biobehavioral Reviews, Physiology & Behavior Physiological Reviews, American Journal Of Physiology, The Journal Of General Physiology

### VII. Academic Support Resources

Use the external links on your blackboard site.

#### PRESENTATION EVALUATION

**Presenter** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**TOPIC** \_\_\_\_\_

Rating Scale: 1 – unacceptable 2 - acceptable, but somewhat deficient 3 - fair 4 - good 5 - excellent

#### The Message

\_\_\_\_ Clear introductory statement of subject to be discussed and smooth transition into body of the presentation

\_\_\_\_ Sufficient discussion of each of the main points

\_\_\_\_ Clear statement of inferences to be drawn from the main points

\_\_\_\_ Conclusion gave sense of completeness

#### Post presentation discussion

\_\_\_\_ Presenter encourages audience participation

\_\_\_\_ Presenter interacts well with audience

#### Transmission

\_\_\_\_ Presenter is credible

\_\_\_\_ Pronunciation

\_\_\_\_ Grammar

\_\_\_\_ Loudness adequate

\_\_\_\_ Length of the presentation was appropriate for the available time

#### VISUAL AIDS (if any)

\_\_\_\_ Helped clarify subject

\_\_\_\_ Easily seen and understood

#### OVERALL

\_\_\_\_ Documentation and research sufficient

\_\_\_\_ Presentation was informative

\_\_\_\_ Presentation was well organized

#### COMMENTS: