ABEN 790 — Graduate Seminar for Advisees of ABEN Faculty  Fall 2014
Meets in ABEN 223 on Fridays at 2:30-3:30 p.m.

About your instructor:  Dr. Dennis Wiesenborn (pronounced WEE-sen-born) has been an ABEN Professor at NDSU since January 1989. He teaches courses related to food/bioproducts process engineering for students in the ABEN and Food Science programs, and directs research on the processing of northern-grown crops. He has advised 10 M.S. and 6 Ph.D. students to completion at NDSU, including two students from outside ABEN.

How to reach your Dr. Wiesenborn outside of class:
Office: room 206, ABEN building.  Office hours: by appointment
Phone: 231-7277  E-mail address is d.wiesenborn@ndsu.edu.

Course description in brief: Initiation of the literature review for the thesis or dissertation; writing & speaking in the profession; orientation to the ABEN Department; professionalism; responsible conduct of research & authorship.

In a nutshell, this course is intended to help you think about your research, find resources to make your research better, seek your advisor’s input, and communicate your research objectives and findings to others. *Students in ABEN 790 are typically also be registered for one or more thesis or dissertation credits.* The course will culminate in an oral presentation of your literature review, which will be open to all in the department, and will provide time for question and answer.

This course is being offered in conjunction with six department-wide ABEN seminars, which will be open to all faculty, staff and students in the department, even individuals from outside ABEN. You may feel some topics are of low priority for you, and some may have little technical or research content. They were selected mainly for their broad appeal in the department. Nevertheless, please attend, try to see how the seminar contributes to your own graduate education, and participate in the Q&A period. In particular, *use these events as an opportunity to analyze presentations as exercises in communication.*

Prerequisite:  graduate enrollment under the guidance of a faculty member of the ABEN Department (includes graduate programs in ABEN, ECS, NRM and Food Safety)

Course References:  Link to course website through Blackboard gateway.

Guidelines for authors for Transactions of the ASABE
[http://www.asabe.org/media/19670/asabe_guide_for_authors.pdf](http://www.asabe.org/media/19670/asabe_guide_for_authors.pdf)

Guidelines for Preparation of Disquisitions
[http://www.ndsu.edu/gradschool/graduating_students/dtp/format/](http://www.ndsu.edu/gradschool/graduating_students/dtp/format/)

Responsible Conduct of Research Modules (Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative)
[https://www.citiprogram.org](https://www.citiprogram.org)
Classroom Topics (tentative, * denotes open seminars):

1. Introduction to the course syllabus, Dr. Dennis, and fellow graduate students (8/29)
2. *Superior Edge Farm Intelligence, Jerry Johnson, CEO and Founder (9/5)
3. NDSU Library & Database Search, Carolyn Harvey, reference librarian (9/12, Morrill 111)
4. * Northern Plains Agricultural Research Laboratory, Matt Sanderson, Research Leader (9/19)
5. Preparing the Research Proposal, Dr. Dennis (9/26)
6. *The Langdon Research Extension Center, Randy Mehlhoff (10/3)
7. NDSU Center for Writers & Academic Writing, Enrico Sassi, English Dept. (10/10)
8. *An ABEN Alumnus Perspective on Industry Consulting, Asanga Manamperi (10/17)
9. Responsible Conduct of Research & Authorship (date TBD)
10. Preparation for oral presentations & critiques (10/24)
11. Seminar speaker TBD (11/7)
13. *Student oral presentations of literature reviews (12/5, from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.)
14. Discussion of oral literature reviews & course; Student rating of instruction (12/12)

Note: Dr. Dennis will be away from Oct. 29 to Dec. 11. ABEN 790 will not meet on these dates: 10/31, 11/14, 11/28 (Thanksgiving Break).

Tentative Grading: points Due Date (if applicable)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Report Type</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reports on three open seminars</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>one week after seminar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral literature review</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>Dec. 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Written literature review</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>Dec. 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>*Additional assignments</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>see below</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professional practice</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>not applicable</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oral Exam (Oral)</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Dec 16-20</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>240</strong></td>
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Letter grades assigned as follows: A=90-100%; B=80-89%; C=70-79%; D=60-69%; F< 60%.

* Literature search assignment (10 points; due 9/19), written outline of your literature review (10 points; due 9/29), six CITI modules (20 points; due 11/21), and critiques of two oral literature reviews (10 points; due 12/5).

Reports on Open Seminars (three reports, 10 points/report, due one week after seminar)

Typed reports are typically one to two-pages in length. One report may be from outside ABEN. Submit a printed, single-sided copy. Reports should include the following, in this same order:

1. Your name; the name and affiliation of the speaker; the title, date and location of the seminar
2. A concise (250-350 word) summary of the presentation in your own words
3. A question you asked of the speaker, preferably during the Q&A portion and your opinion of the speaker’s answer
4. Quality of any visual aids, if used (For example: Were slides legible? Were slides sufficiently concise that you could gain the key point from each slide?)

5. Clarity and organization of the presentation (For example: Did the speaker use clear speech at a sufficient volume? Were the key ideas arranged in logical order? Was there an introduction and conclusion? Did the title fit the content?)

6. Manner of the speaker (Did the speaker face the audience? Did the speaker engage the audience by using appropriate techniques to gain interest and involvement? Did the speaker exemplify professional behavior? Was the speaker free of distracting mannerisms?)

7. Relevance of the topic to graduate level students in your major area

**Oral Literature Review**

You will present a formal overview of your literature review, which should be 15 to 20 minutes and include slides. This is not much time, and does not allow time to review the literature in the same depth as your written literature review. The presentation should be at a level suitable for the other students in ABEN 790, and should build a strong case for your research objectives. Expectations for this presentation will be provided later. You will also critique two other student oral literature reviews.

**Written Literature Review**

Detailed requirements for this review will be presented later. Typically, the review will include a title page, table of contents, introduction written for a lay reader, a comprehensive review of scientific literature related to your research topic written for an expert in the field, and complete list of references. The review will culminate in a statement of the scientific hypotheses and/or research objectives which you will seek to answer/achieve. You will consult with your advisor as you develop the outline, set a goal for length of the review, and select a journal style to be followed. The outline is due Sept. 29, and the full written literature review is due Dec. 12. Prior to submission, the review should be checked using TurnItIn software to demonstrate adequate originality in the writing; documentation of this check should also be provided.

**Additional Assignments:**

The critiques of two oral literature reviews (10 points) and written outline of your literature review (10 points) were already mentioned above, and details will be provided later.

For the literature search assignment, you will each develop an exercise (may be multi-part) that helps the class practice the search techniques described by Carolyn Harvey on 9/12, exchange these with the other ABEN 790 students by 9/15, complete all search exercises by 9/19, and then grade the answers for your exercise by 9/25.

For the CITI modules assignment, you will complete the two required and four elective modules (Authorship and Peer Review) and provide documentation by 11/21. Your average score for the quizzes on Authorship and Peer Review should be at least 80%.
Format of Written Assignments:

Please prepare written assignments using MS Word and submit a print (paper) copy. In some instances, I may also request an electronic copy. Written assignments are due at 5 p.m., and may be submitted directly to Dr. Wiesenborn or placed in his mail slot in the main office.

Professional Practice:

How deeply you participate in class discussions, seminars and lectures will undoubtedly determine how much you benefit from this course. Your full participation is expected and is incorporated into the professional practice grade, through punctual attendance, classroom discussions, volunteering answers to questions, asking constructive questions, providing constructive suggestions to student speakers, reading and responding on time to class e-mail messages, and by helping to create a spirit of cooperation within the class.

If you know in advance that you must miss a class, please e-mail Dr. Wiesenborn with the date and reason as soon as possible. Professionalism is also reflected through the appearance of the work submitted, and by respecting deadlines.

Final Oral Exam:

This exam will be comprehensive, scheduled at a time during final exam week convenient for students, may be in groups of 2 students at a time, and will hopefully last no more than 15 minutes per student.

Academic Honesty at NDSU:

All work in this course must be completed in a manner consistent with NDSU University Senate Policy, Section 335: Code of Academic Responsibility and Conduct. [www.ndsu.edu/academichonesty/](http://www.ndsu.edu/academichonesty/)

CEA Honor Pledge:

“On my honor I will not give nor receive unauthorized assistance in completing assignments and work submitted for review or assessment. Furthermore, I understand the requirements in the College of Engineering and Architecture Honor System and accept the responsibility I have to complete all my work with complete integrity. Students who are suspected of academic dishonesty may not withdraw from the course in which dishonesty is suspected while the case is under review by the Honor Commission (NDSU Policy 335, 5b).” [www.ndsu.edu/cea/CEA Honor Code sp11 update.pdf](http://www.ndsu.edu/cea/CEA Honor Code sp11 update.pdf)

Students with Special Needs and/or Circumstances:

Any students with disabilities or other special needs, who need special accommodations in this course are invited to share these concerns or requests with the instructor and contact the Disability Services Office as soon as possible. All students are welcome to record lectures.