

**Seminar – Spring 2012**  
**Biology, Botany, and Zoology 491 – 2 Units**

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**Office Hours:** Dr. Bleier: 1-2 Tuesdays, 10-11 Fridays and by appointment  
Dr. Greenlee: 9-10 Tuesdays, 2-3 Thursdays and by appointment

**Class Times:** 3:00pm - 3:50pm on WF; on a few select Fridays, it is possible that class could go as late as 4:30pm. April 28, 2012 (9:00am – 5:00pm)

**Prerequisite:** Senior standing; that is, 90 or more semester credits, and completion of baccalaureate degree by December 31, 2012.

**Grading:** Course grade is based primarily on the poster presentation (70%) and written (20%) materials. The remaining 10% of the course grade is based upon participation in other course activities, including but not limited to class discussion and group participation. Submission of an acceptable resume and cover letter, completion of an exit exam and an exit survey, and attendance at the poster session for the entire duration (approximately 9:00am – 5:00pm on April 28, 2012) are minimum requirements in the course. This course relies heavily on participation of all students in the class; therefore, attendance is mandatory. More than one (1) unexcused absence will result in the loss of a letter grade for each additional absence.

**Description/Objectives:** “A group of students engaged, under a professor or professors, in research or criticism and in presentation of reports pertaining thereto” (NDSU Bulletin, 2011 - 2012). Objectives include (1) practicing and improving skills in reading, integrating, and synthesizing original biological literature; (2) delivering a professional-level oral presentation; (3) writing a professional-level abstract and literature cited; (4) preparing a current resume and an example of an accompanying cover letter for a professional position; and (5) attending various departmental seminars.

**Topics/Activities:** Various topics and activities will be covered including but not limited to course introduction, formation of groups, resumes, cover letters, careers, topic selection, tips on giving poster presentations, tips on writing a scientific paper, progress and updates on presentations, an exit exam, and an exit survey.

**Special Needs:** 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.

**Academic Responsibility:** The academic community is operated on the basis of honesty, integrity, and fair play. [NDSU Policy 335: Code of Academic Responsibility and Conduct](#) applies to cases in which cheating, plagiarism, or other academic misconduct have occurred in an instructional context. Students found guilty of academic misconduct are subject to penalties, up to and possibly including suspension and/or expulsion. Student academic misconduct records are maintained by the [Office of Registration and Records](#). Informational resources about academic honesty for students and instructional staff members can be found at [www.ndsu.edu/academichonesty](http://www.ndsu.edu/academichonesty).