

**SEMINAR IN BIOLOGY
BIOLOGY 447 (2 Credit hours)
Spring 2004**

Instructor: Dr. Christian d'Orgeix

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OFFICE HOURS: MWF 8-9am

211 Lockett M 1-3pm

W 1-3pm

F 10-11am & 1-3pm by appointment

Course Description: This is a course designed to give you experience in discussing and researching current ideas in biology and then synthesizing them into a seminar presentation. You will be actively participating in exploring the latest theoretical and empirical research in different areas of sexual selection and an area of biology of your choosing. We will be discussing papers as a group and each student will present 3 mini-seminars.

Course Objectives: The objectives are to help you in developing the critical thinking, investigative skills and presentation techniques necessary for any biology student considering future employment, or graduate studies. You will develop the skills, knowledge and ability to interpret and present scientific data in Power Point Presentations.

Grading: Your grade will be based on your presentation, participation in discussions, and written answers to questions about our reading, and synopsis of seminars attended.

		Grade	
3 Presentations: @ 30pt x 3=	90 pts.	A=90-100%	135-150pts
Attendance & Participation	60 pts.	B=80-89%	120-134pts
TOTAL	150 pts	D=60-69%	90-104pts
		F=below 60%	below 90pts

Attend all classes! You will lose attendance & participation points for each missed class.

Read ahead and review your notes. You should be spending at least 2 hours of reading for each hour in class. Because you will have to actively participate by verbalizing what you have read at each class meeting in our discussion, you must take this seriously!

Visit me in my office. I have office hours so that I can help you with any of your questions or offer tips on study techniques so you can master the materials presented. If you are confused or want to make sure you understand something covered in class or that you read, please drop by. I am here to help you and welcome your visits.

POLICIES:

This is university class in which you have chosen to participate. In order to both get the most out of class and to be courteous to your classmates the following rules must be abided by.

1. No talking during class except when appropriate, such as when answering or asking questions.
2. No cell phones in class (if you have one it must be turned off). If it rings during class you are out of class for the day.
3. No late admittance to class. The door will be closed promptly at the start of class. Thereafter no one else will be admitted. (If you are late, don't even bother coming to class, go and study what you are missing.)
4. No sleeping in class. If you sleep in class you will be asked to leave.
5. By accepting admission to Virginia State University, each student makes a commitment to understand, support, and abide by the "University Honor Code" without compromise or exception. Violations of academic integrity will not be tolerated. This class will be conducted in strict observance of the Honor Code. Refer to

your Student Handbook for details.