

**BIOLOGY 431**  
**BIOLOGY SEMINAR**  
**Fall 2008**

**Credit**, 1 semester hour; Prerequisites Biology 031 and senior standing. Corequisite Biology 433.

**Lecture Schedule:** TR 11:50-1:05

**Catalog Course Description:** A weekly departmental seminar on current biological topics.

**Rationale for Course:** The body of knowledge in the biological sciences is ever expanding. This course is designed to permit the student to explore the primary literature in selected topical areas of biological research.

**Learning Objectives:**

1. Students will become familiar with *Current Contents*, *BioAbstracts* and the use of the internet in scholarly research.
2. Students will learn to synthesize information from the primary literature.
3. Students will prepare an oral presentation for a group of peers.
4. Students will pose and respond to critical questions.

**Academic Integrity:** Students are expected to be honest and to prepare and submit their own work. Adherence to the Mississippi College "Honesty Policy" will be followed.

**Course Outline:**

- I. Introduction to Biological Literature and the Research Method
- II. Criteria for Student Seminar Evaluation
- III. Assignment of Research Topics
- IV. Preparation of Presentations
- V. Student Presentations

**Methods of Instruction:** Presentations of illustrated lectures and videos will be made. Student presentations should include illustrations prepared by PowerPoint.

If you need special accommodations due to learning, physical, psychological or other disabilities,

please contact Dr. Buddy Wagner in the Counseling and Career Development Center. He may be reached by phone at (601) 925-3354 or by mail at P.O. Box 4063, Clinton, MS 39058.

**Required Practices:** Students are expected to prepare and present an original 15 minute seminar, with visuals, on an assigned topic. Students will provide a title, an abstract, and a bibliography for distribution to class members and guests. Each student is expected to enter into the discussion following each presentation.

**Instructional Materials:** Students should use *BioAbstracts*, *Current Contents*, appropriate journals and the internet to locate articles of interest.

**Evaluation Methods:** Seminars will be evaluated based on (1) the quality of research, (2) the quality of visuals, (3) the effective use of visuals, and (4) the overall effectiveness of the presentation. Twenty five points will be allotted to each area. Your attendance and participation at each seminar is expected. Please note that the 25% rule will be based on the number of actual presentation dates.

**Grading Scale:**

Final grades will be assigned based on this scale:

A= 90-100

B= 80-89

C= 70-79

D= 60-69

F= 0-59

**Attendance and Make-up Policy:** Adherence to the Mississippi College attendance policy will be followed. "Any student whose absences, whether excused or unexcused, exceed 25% of the class meetings will receive a grade of "F" in the course."