

## Biology 4900: 'Senior Seminar'

Instructor: Corey Devin Anderson, Ph.D. (Preferred salutation: 'Dr. Anderson')

Biology Seminar location: Bailey Science Center, Room 1023

Dates: TBA

Time: Tu 12:30 to 1:30 PM\*

\*Note that Banner says 12:30 to 1:30.. but you should be prepared to stay longer, as seminars often last until 1:50 PM.

Senior Seminar meeting location: Bailey Science Center, Room 1202

Section A: Tu 5:00 to 6:50 PM

Section B: Thurs 5:00 to 6:50 PM

Office: 1208 Bailey Science Center

Office Hours: Wed 9:30 to 11:30 AM

Email: [coreanderson@valdosta.edu](mailto:coreanderson@valdosta.edu)

### Course description

From the VSU Undergraduate Catalog:

*"Pre- or Co-requisite: Completion of all required courses in the senior curriculum for the biology major. Graded 'Satisfactory' or 'Unsatisfactory'. The capstone course in biology. Students are required to attend outside lectures chosen by the instructor. This course assesses students' ability to research independently topics in biology, assimilate the information, and disseminate the information in an organized and understandable fashion in both written and oral forms. Besides demonstrating comprehension of their topic and competence in communication skills, students take the ETS Major Field test in biology and complete the departmental Senior Exit Questionnaire for successful course completion."*

Addendum:

For spring 2020, rather than focusing on an academic review paper and presentation, we will focus on job searching skills; specifically, resume and cover letter writing, as well as interviewing. You will also have to write a statement of purpose for graduate school (whether or not you plan to apply). All other aspects (seminar attendance, ETS Major Field Test, and Senior Exit Questionnaire) are still required for satisfactory completion of the course.

## Books

Required texts:

- 1) Spencer D (2016) Resume Psychology Resume Hacks & Traps Revealed: Beat the

### Specific course requirements (150 points)

- 1) Resume
  - a. First draft (= 10 points)
  - b. Final draft (= 40 points)
- 2) Cover letter
  - a. First draft (= 10 points)
  - b. Final draft (= 40 points)
- 3) Statement of Purpose
  - a. First draft (= 10 points)
  - b. Final draft (= 40 points)
- 4) Attendance
  - a. 5 points/scheduled class
  - b. 5 points/scheduled seminar
- 5) Pop quizzes
  - a. 5 points/quiz

### Deductions

Failure to complete ETS Major Field Exam by deadline of April 6<sup>th</sup> (-40 points).

Failure to complete Senior Exit Questionnaire (-30 points).

Failure to schedule and complete 'Focus 2' career assessment (-30 points).

### Biology Seminar series

All students in BIOL 4900 are required to attend the Biology Seminar series. Seminars are on Tuesdays from 12:30 to ~ 1:50 PM in BSC 1023. You must sign in at the beginning of the seminar and turn in the evaluation form at the end of the seminar (failure to do both will result in a point deduction, specified above). The seminars are a mix of formal academic presentations and informal Q&A job talks. The seminar schedule will be posted on BlazeView and is subject to updating (so please check it weekly). It is very important that arrive on time, prior to the beginning 1F1 12 Tf1 0 0 1 72.024 3401 72.024 311.

## ETS Major Field Test

The major field test is a comprehensive 150-question multiple-choice exam that is intended to assess the knowledge that you have acquired as a Biology major.

<https://www.ets.org/mft/about/content/biology>

As this exam is intended to be an assessment, we will not be preparing or practicing for the

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