**BSC3932 Junior Seminar II for Biology Majors**

**Tentative Schedule – Spring 2015**

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|  **Date**  | **Activity**  |
| Jan. 13th  | **Introduction:** Discuss possible venues for research and internships. Sign-up for presentation dates.  |
| Jan 20st  | **Research Proposal.** What is a research proposal and how to identify a topic? ***Assignment*:** Identify topic for RP w/2 papers  |
| Jan 27th  | **Activity for today –** Briefly (and informally) discuss your topic, significance, and question for research proposal. ***Assignment*:** Design research project for RP**DUE:** 2 papers dealing with your topic |
| Feb 3th  | **TBA**  |
| Feb 10th  | **RP Presentations**. Present proposed research question, hypothesis, predictions and study design. ***DUE*:**  First draft of research proposal, see McMillan (2012), pp. 210-217;  |
| Feb 17th  | Stats Programs and Reference Managers Writing a resume |
| Feb 24th  | **TBA**  |
| Mar 3th  | **TBA** |
| Mar 10th  | **DUE:** bring what you have for your Powerpoint presentation so far; Resume (if not already done in Junior I) |
| Mar 17th  |  **Spring Break** |
| Mar 24th  | Questions on revising RP. ***Assignment*:** Revise first draft of RP for final version; due 4/7. |
| Mar 31st  | **TBA** |
| Apr 7th  | **RP Presentations** **DUE:** written proposal, Powerpoint Presentation |
| Apr 14th  | **RP Presentations**  |
| Apr 21nd  | **TBA**  |

PROFESSOR: Dr. Jennifer Capers

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Office Hours: Check website for office hours, or make an appointment.

**GRADING:**

Grades will be tabulated as percentages out of 100 points as outlined below:

Attendance and participation will count 20% [up to 20 points].

1) Participation will include actively working on any reading assignments, preparing and asking questions, and contributing significantly to discussions.

2) Attendance is required for all class periods. An unexcused absence will reduce your total by 5 points each missed Day.

Written Assignments will count 60% of the total grade [up to 60 points]. There will be four written assignments, including first draft, and revised final draft in the point totals. All written assignments must follow appropriate standard formats outlined in McMillan (2012) and any handouts. All written assignments must be submitted to the appropriate dropbox in the Angel course shell in MS Word \*.doc format. Points will be subtracted for missing due dates (5 points/day).

1. Research proposal (RP): This formal proposal will follow the format outlined in the instructor’s handout and McMillan (2012), pp. 210-217; and requires a minimum of eight primary literature sources. (60 pts)
2. Resume, if not completed in Junior Seminar I.

Presentations will count 20% of the total grade [up to 20 points].

1) Presentation of Research Topic: Informal oral description of research topic. (5 pts)

2) Presentation of Research Proposal: PowerPoint presentation (~15 min) of proposed research question, hypothesis/predictions, study design and statistical analysis. The presentation must be submitted to the dropbox in the Angel course shell in MS PowerPoint \*.ppt format. See McMillan (2012), pp. 191-201. (15 pts)

**GRADING SCALE:**

A - 90% - 100% C - 70% - 79% F - below 60% B - 80% - 89% D - 60% - 69% W = withdraw by published college deadline (March 19th) I = an incomplete may be given to passing students in EXTREME cases

**Required Support Materials:**

McMillan, V.E. 2012. Writing papers in the biological sciences. 5th ed. New York: Bedford/St. Martins. [ISBN: 978-0-312-64971]. The 4th edition is also acceptable. This text is required of all Biology majors.

**CHEATING:**

 Cheating, including plagiarism, of ANY kind will not be tolerated by this instructor or the college. Any student caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive an immediate F for the assignment and possibly in the course (no withdrawal allowed.) Plagiarism is defined by the use of five or more identical, consecutive words of another author(s) that is inappropriately used or cited. See the IRSC Website for the college’s definition of plagiarism and examples. (http://www.irsc.edu/pdf/libraries/plagiarism.pdf )

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

* Students will review principals of the scientific method and the practice of science.
* Students will examine scientific literature and analyze it as to adherence to the “rules of science.” Students will write and edit a formal research proposal in the appropriate scientific format.
* Students will write and edit a cover letter, résumé and curriculum vitae to prepare them for applying for internships and jobs in the future.

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**:

Upon completion of BSC3932, Junior Seminar II, students will be able to: - Apply problem solving, analytical, and communication skills based on the scientific method. - Make use of technology to organize, acquire, and convey information relevant to the biological sciences.