BIO 475 – Special Problems
Spring 2015

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Office Hours: MW 9:30 – 11:00 AM, Th 1:00 – 3:00 PM, Or by appointment.

Text and Materials: None

Course Requirements:
1. Research paper discussing the use of anuran illustrations in academic work (e.g., peer-review articles, text books, educational books, etc.). Paper should be no more than 5 pages and should include citations of at least 10 references. **Paper will be due 11 March 2016.**
2. Visit frog choruses under the guidance of instructor.
3. Complete illustrations/paintings of 4-6 different species in different poses. **Due 12 May 2016.**

Course Description:
Independent investigation into the importance, use, and creation of biological illustrations, especially anurans.

Student Learning Outcomes:
Students who complete Special Problems will be able to:
1. Investigate and describe the role of illustrations in science (PLO 1, 2, 5).
2. Understand the anatomy of animal and how that relates to form; use that understanding for illustrations (PLO 1).
3. Give oral reports on a weekly basis in lab meetings (PLO 2).
4. Prepare illustration/paintings for presentation that could be used in a public setting of some form (PLO 5).

Program Learning Outcomes:
Each of the student learning outcomes listed above address the Biology Department Program Learning Outcomes as follows:
1. Demonstrate a good knowledge base in biological concepts and be able to integrate knowledge with critical thinking skills to become problem solvers. Knowledge base will include: levels of complexity (molecular/cellular through population/communities/ecosystems); biological principles and processes.
2. Clearly articulate scientific information in oral form. Provide clear structure and transitions; demonstrate audience-appropriate purpose, agenda, language and style.
3. Be able to design, carry out and analyze experiments to answer biological questions, including: scientific methods and instrumentation; safe and appropriate use of laboratory equipment; experimental design; data analysis; and familiarity with professional standards in science.
4. Career building, demonstrate preparation for future career and educational goals utilizing the knowledge and training during their academic program by: awareness of personal competencies (strengths and weaknesses) and an understanding of professional and ethical behavior.
Course Evaluation:
All students are required to complete a course evaluation at the end of the semester.

Academic Integrity:
Academic Integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty. Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in the act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one’s own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one’s paper without giving the author due credit.

Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp

ANY act of academic dishonesty will result in receiving a grade of F for the course and will be reported to the student’s dean.

Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy:
Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average. The circumstances precipitating the request must have occurred after the last day in which a student could withdraw from a course. Students requesting a WH must be passing the course with a minimum projected grade of C.

Students with disabilities:
To obtain disability related accommodations and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, Room 325, 468-3004/468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided.