

# Senior Seminar

**BSC4931**  
*Spring 2018*

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- **Instructor:**

Dr. Lisa Brinn ([lbrinn@fiu.edu](mailto:lbrinn@fiu.edu))

**Phone #:** 305-348-7619

**Office location:** OE 212

**Office hours:** Monday and Wednesday 7:40-8:40am  
Tuesday 2:00-4:00pm

- **When and where do we meet?**

Thursday 11:00 am – 12:15 pm

- **Required Text:**

- There is no required text for this course. However, there are several scientific articles that will be used during the semester.

- **Reading assignments:** you will be required to read and understand several scientific articles during the semester.

- **Course Prerequisites/eligibility:**

- PCB 3043, PCB 3063, PCB 4023, and PCB 4674

- **How will you succeed in this course?**

**Attendance:** Be prepared to participate in ALL the course as scheduled! Attendance is mandatory and students who miss often should expect to receive a failing grade. Not all material that is discussed in class will be found in the readings or slides on Blackboard. Students will be graded on their participation, discussions and other class activities. Students should also be aware that frequent and extreme lateness in coming to class will be noted by the professor, as it is in every class. The best way to convince your instructor that you don't care about the class is to be late or absent. Habitual extreme lateness is rude, disruptive, selfish, and immature. The correlation between high grades and punctual attendance is very high in just about all classes. If you miss more than 2 classes your grade will be lowered by 1 full letter grade unless an official documentation of your absence can be provided.

**Course description:** This is a capstone course for B.S. in Biology and the B.S. in Marine Biology in their senior year with at least 90 credits. The main objective of this course is to help students integrate knowledge from different fields of Biology in conducting scientific research, applying for a job or public speaking. All jobs in the Biological and Medical fields require that employees have their knowledge in science updated which will also be covered in this course.

**Extra Credit :**The exams and assignments listed above will be the only grades you will receive for the class. Extra credit assignments will not be allowed under any circumstances, so please do not ask if you can do one. Experience shows that the expectation of being able to do extra credit simply encourages students to take regular assignments less seriously, and allowing it is also unfair to students whose schedules don't permit them to participate in it. Also, the time spent on extra assignments takes away from time needed to do better on subsequent regular assignments.

**Emergency:** This section covers situations that prevent you from attending the class or/and exams. For this course, "Emergency" is determined as an unpreventable event that prevents attendance to class or/and an exam.

Emergency situations are:

1. Medical emergency with Medical Doctor's note/emergency room.
2. Automobile accident with police report (lack of ride is NOT an emergency case).
3. Death of immediate family members.

Emergency also includes natural events such as hurricanes, floods, or fires that causes the closure of FIU-BBC.

**Important Information:** You will need to follow all policies as stated in the student handbook. Failure to do so will result in dismissal from the class and the course. If you are not familiar with these policies and/or have never read them, we strongly encourage you to do so.

### Make-Ups

Make ups will not be allowed unless you have a very good and official excuse, like a note from a doctor, hospital, parole officer, or court (not a mechanic). You must notify your Professors in advance by email and present your original official excuse within 1 week of the occurrence. Fail to meet the deadline will void the excuse.

### Grades:

Attendance	15%
Research Paper	30%
Presentation	30%
Other Activities (participation, article discussion, attend 2 on-campus scientific seminars)	15%
ETS Major Field Test in Biology	10%

- **Grade Scale:**

A	B+	B	C+	C	D	F
90-100	85-89	80-84	75-79	70-74	60-69	< 59

**\*\* I do NOT curve the grades!! Grades are NOT negotiable! Make sure you study throughout the semester.**

### **Incomplete Grades**

An incomplete grade is a temporary symbol given at the discretion of the instructor for work not completed because of serious interruption not caused by the student’s own negligence. In any case, more than half of the work of the course has to have been completed. An incomplete grade must be made up as quickly as possible, but no later than two consecutive semesters or it will automatically default to the grade the student earned in the course (which is normally an F in the absence of all work completed). There is no extension to the two consecutive semester deadline. The student must not register again for the course to make up the incomplete. In order to receive an incomplete for this class, valid documentation must be provided for the reason the student is requesting the incomplete. The reason, again, must be out of the student’s control.

- **Professional and Academic Integrity**

**Student Disability:** Any student who, because of a disability, may require special arrangements in order to meet course requirements should contact DRC (Disability Resource Center) within 1 week of the beginning of this course to make the necessary accommodations.

**Sexual Harassment Policy:** The Faculty Senate voted to require each professor to include a statement about this in the syllabus. FIU’s sexual harassment policy is available online: [http://www.fiu.edu/hr/eop/Forms/Policies/Sexual\\_harassment.pdf](http://www.fiu.edu/hr/eop/Forms/Policies/Sexual_harassment.pdf)

**Academic Dishonesty Policy:** Cheating or plagiarism will not be tolerated!!! Cheating (looking at another’s paper, possession of notes) is unacceptable, will result in an automatic zero on the assignment, and will be reported to University Officials. See the Student Handbook and PLAGIARISM POLICY regarding the FIU policies. I will also write an informal misconduct complaint. Please don’t cheat! If you are lucky, I will catch you. If you are not lucky, life will catch up to you.

**Schedule may be subject to change when deemed necessary.**

Date	Theme
Jan 11	Syllabus, Finding Scientific Articles
Jan 18	How to write a review article
Jan 25	Article Discussion (paper title due)
Feb 1	How to give a scientific talk
Feb 8	How to interview and resume

Feb 15	Article discussion
Feb 22	Interviews and paper outline due
Mar 1	Student presentation
Mar 8	Student presentation
Mar 15	No classes – Spring break
Mar 22	Student presentation (papers due)
Mar 29	Student presentation
Apr 5	Student presentation
Apr 12	Student presentation
Apr 19	Exam (date to be confirmed)