ZOOL 482 Zoology Seminar for Seniors Spring 2015

Meeting times:  Section 1 – Mondays 3:00-3:50 p.m.;  Section 2 – Thursdays 2:00-2:50 p.m.
Venue: Life Science II, Room 367

Instructor: Dr. Margaret N. Nsofor
Office: LS II, Room 355B  Phone: 453-4142  E-mail: mnsofor@siu.edu
Office Hours: email or call for appointment.

Course Website: https://online.siu.edu/d2l (Desire2Learn or D2L). Any pertinent class information will be passed on through D2L. You are encouraged to check the site from time to time for updates.

Objectives:
To develop research and biological writing skills
To improve your creative thinking, organizational and scientific presentation skills
To effectively write a report of findings based on research/internship experience, using proper citations.
To effectively communicate the report to the class in a professional manner

Broad Course Guidelines:
1. To be enrolled in this section of Senior Seminar, it is expected that each student would have carried out a research project or participated on an internship program deemed by his/her mentor to be adequate for producing a scientific research paper or report.

2. The class will have an organizational meeting at the beginning of the semester. Most of the semester, you will be working very closely with your mentor to fulfill the requirements for a grade in this course.

3. You will work with your mentor to develop and write a research paper or report. See the “Guidelines for Papers and Presentations” (attached) for details. Any deviations from the due dates stipulated in the guidelines will be at the discretion of your mentor.

4. You will also prepare and do a 15-minute PowerPoint presentation of your paper. The audience for this presentation will consist of all those enrolled in the class, the instructor, your mentor and any other faculty members/mentors that might be present. See “Guidelines for Papers and Presentations” (attached) for details. Time management is important, as we have to fit 4 presentations during each session. The presentations will be scheduled towards the end of the semester at a day and time that takes the schedules of all those involved into account.

5. Due dates: Take note of all due dates in the guideline, as they will be strictly enforced. To highlight:
   - Paper outline and presentation outline - due to your mentor by the end of the 4th week (February, 13th)
   - Complete first draft of your paper is due to your mentor by the end of the 8th week (March 20th).
   - First draft of your PowerPoint is due to your mentor by the end of the ninth week (March 27th)
   - The final draft of your paper is due by April 17th. [Individual mentors may require additional drafts and set additional deadlines and/or practice sessions at their discretion.]

6. Attendance to all class meetings is mandatory. On presentation days, all those enrolled in the class will constitute the audience. Each absence will be penalized with a drop in the grade assigned by your mentor.

7. Final Grade: Your grade in the course will be determined on the basis of your performance in the two major components of the course – Written paper (100 points) and presentation (50 points).
   All evaluations will be done by your mentor on a grading form to be filed with the Instructor during finals week. Details of the Points distribution are in the attached guideline.

[Note: The instructor reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus]