

Course Syllabus
UNIVERSITY OF DUBUQUE
BIO/EVS 495: Senior Seminar
Friday 2:30-3:20 AM (University Science Center 228)
Fall 2009

The schedule of topics for this course, readings, and relevant links are on the course's web site at <http://people.dbq.edu/faculty/deasley/index.html> (or google "Dale Easley")

Faculty Information:

Dr. Dale Easley
204B University Science Center
Office Hours: TBA

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104B University Science Center
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Course Description:

A capstone course for seniors graduating in Biology and/or Environmental Science. Students will develop proficiency in areas related to post-undergraduate experiences. Topics may include presentation of research results or internship experiences, analysis of workplace ethics and interaction, and strategies for entering graduate school and pursuing professional employment.

Course Objectives:

This course is intended to provide senior-level students with professional experiences and preparation for their next endeavor. Students that successfully complete this course will have:

1. Developed skills for job searching, professional development, and self-presentation.
2. Practiced writing skills.
3. Worked effectively as part of a group.
4. Presented a topic in a scientific manner.
5. Actively participated in group discussions.
6. Developed an ethical framework for their scientific education

Performance Expectations:

- Attend all class sessions and other required activities.
- Meet all assigned deadlines.
- Prepare adequately for each class session using appropriate study strategies.
 - Read assigned materials *prior* to class.
 - Bring required materials to class and lab.
- Do your own work on exams and individual assignments.
 - Assignments prepared out-of-class are expected to be neat and professional (correct grammar and spelling, referenced information sources, and completeness).

- Have and use all textbooks and required materials
- Listen actively and carefully in class, including following all directions
- Participate in classes, labs and discussions
- Write and speak effectively and appropriately

Prerequisite:

Senior standing.

Required Texts:

Goodall, J. 1999. Reason For Hope: A Spiritual Journey. Warner Books. New York.

Miller, K. 2000. Finding Darwin's God. Warner Boks. New York.

Technology Requirements:

Students are expected to have basic familiarity with word processing (e.g., *MS Word*), presentation (e.g., *MS PowerPoint*), and web browsing (e.g., *MS Explorer*, *Netscape*) software. Computer simulation models (e.g., *Populus*) will be used in this course. Other instrumentation will be used in the field. Students will be expected to complete assignments using these tools after directions are provided by the instructor(s).

1. Electronic Communication:

Students are expected to check their UD e-mail accounts regularly for course updates and University announcements. If you prefer to use a different e-mail account, it is your responsibility to have messages forwarded from your *dbq.edu* account to your preferred account. Instructions for forwarding e-mail from a *dbq.edu* account can be found at the Technology Services link on the UD Web Page.

2. Electronic Devices:

All cell phones, pagers, PDA's, and all other electronic devices not medically necessary will be turned off during class times unless permission is given by the instructor.

Library Requirements:

Students are expected to utilize the Charles C. Myers Library as a resource for the research and preparation of required written assignments (see below).

Assessment:

1. Course Requirements:

Students must regularly attend class, participate in discussions, complete assignments by due dates and perform adequately on exams. (See Methods below.)

2. Grading Scale:

Grades will be assigned from A to F. No extra credit is given, and grades are based on the proportion of total points earned during the semester:

A	93-100%	C	73-76
A-	90-92	C-	70-72
B+	87-89	D+	67-69

B	83-86	D	63-66
B-	80-82	D-	60-62
C+	77-79	F	59 and below

3. Methods:

The breakdown of possible points for determining grades follows:

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Objective</i>	<i>Points</i>
Curriculum Vitae	1	10
Cover Letter	1, 2	10
Midterm Test	1, 2, 6	20
Job Search List	1	10
Interview	1	10
Writing Assignment	2, 6	20
Class Presentation	3, 4	10
<u>Involvement*</u>	5	10
<i>Course Totals:</i>		100

* Involvement reflects the student's active role within this course. The student's actions (level of involvement) determine this score. There are several possible mechanisms for involvement, first and most obvious being regular attendance and participation during class. Others mechanisms of involvement include, but are not limited to, bringing and presenting outside material to class and leading discussions. Students should not expect to receive full credit for Involvement only by attending class.

Course Format:

This course will combine a brief introduction to a topic by the Instructor followed by a student-based group discussion. There will be one test at midterm..

Course Administration Information:

- In cases of death in the family or verified illness, we will allow you to reschedule a lecture exam at the earliest possible time. However, you **MUST** notify us before the scheduled exam.
- Because of the nature of field labs, it is not possible to “make them up.” For excused absences, we will allow you to use a partner’s data. In general, when you choose to miss class, you choose to forfeit any points for assignments due at that time.
- Late written assignments will be accepted, but 10% will be deducted for each day late, except for family death or verified illness.
- We encourage group involvement in this course. However, we expect each student to submit original, independent work unless otherwise instructed.
- The University of Dubuque has explicit policies and penalties for Academic Dishonesty (i.e., cheating and plagiarism; see pages 74-75 of the current UD student Handbook). Academic Dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, and fabrication of information. Be aware that plagiarism goes beyond copying someone else’s work “Word-for-word”. It also includes using the ideas of others

without proper citation. It is essential, therefore, that you acknowledge the ideas of others (including your classmates) in all of your assignments. Failure to properly cite ideas is as serious as cheating on an exam or copying a friend's homework. "The University of Dubuque expects students to be honest in academic matters. We expect each person on campus to be forthright and direct, and to value integrity in all his/her dealings. Activities and attitudes should be consistent with high academic standards and Christian commitment and should be consistent with the Mission and Values of the University" (*University of Dubuque Student Handbook*, 2006). Please see the "Values Violations" section of the UD Student Handbook for appropriate definitions, procedures, and possible sanctions related to Academic Dishonesty.

<http://www.dbq.edu/studentlife/pdf/200607UDStudentHandbook.pdf>

- Department of Natural and Applied Sciences (Main Office)
204 University Science Center
Phone: x-3152
Cheryl Moonen, Department Secretary
- Academic Support Center
Charles C. Myers Library 214
Phone: x-3262
- This syllabus, course calendar, and related materials are subject to change during the semester. Students will be given notice of all changes.
- Americans with Disability Act (ADA) Statement: Reasonable accommodations are available for students who have a documented disability. Please notify your instructor during the first week of class of any accommodations needed for the course. Late notification may cause the requested accommodations to be unavailable. Confidentiality of all requests will be maintained. All requested accommodations must be approved through the Academic Success Center, 2nd floor, Myers Library (589-3262).