Welcome to BIOLOGY 470! This section of BIO 470 is designed to provide upper-class BIO majors experience communicating an area of expertise in oral and written fashion. Communicating findings in an informative presentation is an essential skill for professionals of all sorts, particularly scientists. The topic of this section is the natural history of invertebrate animals.

COURSE CATALOG DESCRIPTION: Student participation in general and specific topics in biology. One credit hour.

PREREQUISITES: 20 semester hours of biology; no co-requisite.

Instructor: Dr. Dan Bennett  
Department: Biology Phone: 468-5163 E-mail: bennettdj@sfasu.edu  
Office: S-210; Office hours: W 10:00–12:30; Th 2:00–4:30 and by appointment.

Required Materials  
Text: Ten research articles from primary literature associated with the topic of student interest.

Suggested Materials

GRADING POLICY: Your grade will be determined by the following elements.

- Oral presentation: 30%
- Presentation outline – final: 5%
- Presentation outline – draft: 3%
- Written report: 30%
- Bibliography: 4%
- Abstract: 3%
- Preliminary topic list: 3%
- Literature review assignment 1: 3%
- Literature review assignment 2: 3%
- Presentations summaries: 8%
- Attendance: 4%
- Participation: 4%

GRADING SCALE: ☺ A = 90–100%; B = 80–89%; C = 70–79%; D = 60–69%; < 60% = F ☹️

PARTICIPATION & ATTENDANCE POLICY: Attendance is required for all class meetings and presentations. Absences will be excused for illness accompanied by a doctor’s note, university-sponsored events, and family emergencies with documentation. Unexcused absences will detract from the attendance, participation, and presentation summary portions of the student’s grade. Participation in the form of contributions to class discussions and questions to presenters is expected and assessed as part of the student’s grade. Failure to contribute to the end of course evaluation will result in a 2% detraction from the participation grade.

Major Field Biology Test: BIO 470 students are required to take the Major Field Test in Biology. You must sign up for this test with Testing Services (Rusk Building rm 328; 936-468-3958) http://www.sfasu.edu/ccs/testing/) and keep your appointment. Students failing to take this test will receive a withheld grade (WH) for the course in addition to a penalty of 5% of the final grade. Your score will not harm your grade in the class, however the three highest scoring students in the class will receive a 5% bonus on their final course grade.

TENTATIVE COURSE CALENDAR:  
Week 1: Intro to course  
Week 2: Literature searching strategies  
Week 3: Preliminary topics due; topic discussion  
Week 4: Discussion – oral communication strategies and practices  
Week 5: TBA; literature review assignment 1 due at start of class  
Week 6: Peer review editing session (draft of outline due at start of class)  
Week 7: Individual consultations
Week 8: TBA; literature review assignment 2 due at start of class
Week 9: TBA
Week 10: Presentations
Week 11: Presentations
Week 12: Presentations
Week 13: Thanksgiving
Week 14: Presentations
Week 15: Presentations; written report due Friday, Dec. 8

ACCEPTABLE STUDENT BEHAVIOR: Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the Student Conduct Code, policy D-34.1). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom.

Do not carry on a separate conversation that might be distracting to your neighbors. Keep cell phones silenced and stowed away. Students texting, arriving late, leaving early, sleeping, talking amongst themselves, not participating in activities, or otherwise misbehaving are not eligible for bonus points, may jeopardize bonus points awarded to the whole class, and may be subject to additional loss of points. The use of a computer is allowed for taking notes only.

SUGGESTIONS
• Check D2L daily for announcements.
• Use the course calendar. An up-to-date version is always posted on d2l.
• Use the textbook. Skim the appropriate chapter before class. After class, read in detail areas overlapping with the lecture.
• Print lecture slides before class and bring them to lecture. These consist of skeletal outlines that you will complete during lecture. They are designed to give you a head start and provide you with figures and diagrams used. Don’t expect to be able to keep up without this head start.
• Study at least 1-2 hours per lecture. Stay caught up and avoid cramming all your studying in a few days before the exam.
• Utilize office hours and know that I’m very glad to help as much as I can.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES/OBJECTIVES (SLOs)
SLO 1. Describe intellectually stimulating aspects of invertebrate animals. (PLO1)
SLO 2. Critically evaluate scientific literature. (PLO 1, 5)
SLO3. Effectively communicate scientific information in oral form. (PLO 2, 5)

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES
PLO 1. The student will demonstrate a good knowledge base in biological concepts.
PLO 2. Clearly articulate scientific information in oral form.
PLO 5. Demonstrate teamwork skills needed to coordinate diverse multidisciplinary teams to solve challenges in the biological world.

General Education Core Curriculum Objectives/Outcomes: This course is not included in the general education core curriculum.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: Academic integrity is expected of everyone in this course. Any form of academic dishonesty will lead to the student receiving a failing grade for the entire course. Additionally, a Report of Academic Dishonesty form will be submitted to your Dean’s office.

SFA Policy A-9.1 is summarized as follows: 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 an 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
WITHHELD GRADES (Semester Grades Policy A-54): 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 becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will 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, alternate formats 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. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodation. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/. Please note that you must visit with me outside of class time concerning your request before I will be able to provide the accommodations described in the notification from ODS.