BIO 475 Special Problems  
Spring 2020

Instructor: Dr. Brent Burt  
Class meeting time and place: TBD, Miller 222
Department: Biology  
Phone: 468-2482  
E-mail: dbburt@sfasu.edu  
Office: Science 222
Office hours: MW 8:00-10:00, 1:15-1:45

Text and Materials: none

Course Requirements:

Lab participation: 3 hours per week for 1 credit hour. Review of literature pertaining to the assigned project. Student is expected to record data from audio files, 3 hours per week. Student will provide a final report with an analysis of the data to show how bird locations are linked to different habitats in east Texas.

Course Evaluation:

All students are required to complete a course evaluation at the end of the semester.

Academic Integrity (A-9.1)

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

Academic dishonesty will result in immediate failure in this class.

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.

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, and 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 accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.
Course Description:
Independent investigations by students guided through individual conferences with the professor willing to work with them.

Student Learning Outcomes:
Students who complete Special Problems will be able to:
1. Execute the scientific method and critically evaluate data.
2. Work collaboratively in a laboratory setting.
3. Give oral reports on a weekly basis in lab meetings.
4. Write a summary discussing the experimental methods, results and conclusions of their individual investigation.

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.
#4 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.
#6 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.