Instructor: Dr. Dan Bennett
Department: Biology Phone: 468-5163 E-mail: bennettdj@sfasu.edu
Office: S-210
Office hours: TBD and by appointment.

Class meeting time and place: TBD

Required Materials: none/supplied by instructor. Appropriate literature will be supplied and/or recommended.

Course Description: One semester hour. Independent investigations by students guided through individual conferences with a professor. Prerequisites: 18 hours of biology with minimum B average and approval of the department chair.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES
1. Understand and use the scientific method to test hypotheses (PLO4)
2. Work collaboratively in laboratory and field environments
3. Effectively communicate in oral and written formats (PLO2)
4. Learn field and lab techniques pertaining to entomological research (PLO 1,4, 5)

PROGRAM LEARNING OBJECTIVES

PLO 1: Knowledge. The student will 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.


PLO 4: Scientific Method. 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.

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

Course Requirements:
The student will prepare a poster for a local conference and pursue a publication on results of the student’s research from a prior semester concerning the pollination of grass pink orchids. An average of three hours of work per week are expected and progress towards stated goals listed below.

Tentative Course Calendar:
The student will meet with the instructor on a weekly basis during office hours or by appointment.

Grading Policy:
A pass-fail grading system, standard for all BIO 475 courses, will be utilized. The student will be evaluated based on time and effort (roughly 3 hours per credit per week expected) and progress towards the following goals:

1. Demonstrated familiarity with local pollinators – 10%.
2. Development of a poster for presentation at a local conference utilizing the student’s previously collected data – 45%.
3. Research summary in the form of a scientific publication, which incorporates a literature review of orchid pollination studies in North America – 45%.

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 GRADERS (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.