

**BIOL 4900: Senior Seminar (Section A)  
Fall 2019**

Instructor: Dr. Theresa J. Grove  
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Office Hours: Monday 3:00-4:00 and Thursday 9-10:00 or by appointment (BC 1032)

Note: this is a tentative syllabus. The instructor may make changes as needed and more detailed information or clarification may be given in class.

**Course Theme: *Physiological Adaptations of Animals***

**Course Description** (from the Undergraduate Catalog): The capstone course in biology. Students are research independently topics in biology, assimilate the information, and disseminate the information in an organized and understandable fashion in both written and oral forms. Besides demonstrating comprehension of their topic and competence in communication skills, students take the ETS Major Field test in biology and complete the departmental Senior Exit Questionnaire for successful course completion.

This is the capstone course for your undergraduate biology degree; therefore, this course is designed for prove that you are ready to become a professional biologist. During this semester you will (1) attend and evaluate scientific presentations; (2) develop a review paper on a topic in biology, and (3) present your findings to your classmates. You must also take the Major Field test to demonstrate your knowledge of biology content and complete an exit questionnaire. Educational outcomes associated with this course include numbers 1-5 as specified by the VSU Biology Department (<http://catalog.valdosta.edu/undergraduate/academic-programs/sciences-mathematics/biology>). The VSU General Education Outcomes can be found at <https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/vsu-core-curriculum.php> and this course meets Educational Outcomes A1 and D .

**Pre- or Corequisite:** Completion of all required courses in the senior curriculum for the biology major

**Graded:** Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory

**Class Time:** Tuesday 12:45





about the presentation as if you were presenting to other biology majors who will be tested on your topic. Explain concepts, define words. Failure to give a presentation will result in an Unsatisfactory grade.

**Major Field Test:** The ETS Major Field Test (MFT) is a comprehensive, standardized test designed to evaluate the Student -disciplines of Biology. Successful completion of the MFT is a course requirement. Each student is responsible for scheduling the M

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**Concealed Guns on Campus:** If you choose to carry a concealed weapon you are responsible for knowing and following the law. Licensed individuals may carry a handgun if it is mostly covered, does not

concealed guns are allowed in lecture and lab classrooms, no guns are allowed in faculty, staff and administrative offices and in rooms where Move On When Ready (MOWR) high school students are enrolled. It is a misdemeanor to violate this law. Further information regarding policies may be announced. If you have any questions concerning this new law, contact University Police (229-333-7861) or the University Attorney (229-333-5351).

### **Class Schedule (Seminars are in parentheses)**

August

20 Course Introduction (no seminar)

27 **Plagiarism training must be completed (Biology and online)**; Paper topics will be chosen and presentation order will be determined (seminar: Dr. Jenifer Turco)

September

3 Discussion, questions, etc. Come to class with your papers, outline draft (due Oct 17), questions, etc. In class students will finalize topic choice if they decided to change topics (no changes after this date). You should be working on outline. (seminar: TBA)

10 **Reference page and electronic version of research and review papers are due.** Class time