



COURSE DESCRIPTION:

General seminar (BIOL 4111) will provide the opportunity to students to attend a diversity of lectures from researchers from SHSU and other universities. This is a space where researchers can present results from their research, and the audience can have opportunity to meet local scientists or from other universities.

CREDIT HOURS: 1

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The primary objective of this course is to provide expose students to specialized terminology, experimental methods, and results from new research projects in Biological Sciences. Upon successful completion of the course you will have:

- Understanding of the scope of Biological Research; from this you will learn how biologists approach and address research questions and conduct scientific studies.
- Gained insight into potential careers in the biological sciences.
- Developed the skills to listen and gain insights from a professional presentation.
- Learned how to evaluate scientific works and papers, and peer review presentation.
- Learned how to deliver a comprehensive discussion on a scientific paper to peers.
- Learned how to deliver a professional scientific talk.

PROFESSOR:

Juan Diego Daza Ph. D.

Lee Drain Building 214

Phone: 936-294-4250

Email: daza@shsu.edu

Office Hours: Wednesdays 11:00 AM—2:30 PM or by appointment

ROOM & TIME: R, 4:00 pm - 5:15 pm, LDB 214

ONLINE RESOURCES:

We will be using dropbox to exchange files, also you should receive an invitation on your mailbox.

EXPLANATION OF COURSE EVALUATION:

There are two required assignments for each speaker:

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- 1) You will read an assigned paper prior to the seminar from each researcher, so you will be familiar with its research.
- 2) At the end of the seminar you will be to submit a form about the talk. The form is your synthesis of the talk, and will help me quantify your understanding of the lecture. The form will be filled on a word document and will be submitted via dropbox.

GRADE:

Seminar form (10 points for each seminar) X 14 = 140 points

Grading: 90-100% = A; 80-89 % = B; 70-79% = C; 60-69% = D; <60% = F.

The enclosed form will be submitted on Dropbox. The file has to be named using the following format: YOURLASTNAME.SPEAKERLASTNAME.doc, so If I would have to submit a form next week, the form should be called:

DAZA.GOODSPEED.doc

ATTENDANCE:

Attendance is mandatory. Because each presentation is a one-time deal, no absence can be made up. Thus, your grade is dependent upon your attendance and participation. There are only 14 seminars total, so it is not difficult to attend all of them.

The seminar schedule is provided at the end of the syllabus. Please note that although the first scheduled speaker is not until Jan 26, we will meet on Jan 19 to discuss the syllabus, class policy, and grading

CONDUCT DURING SEMINAR:

All students will be respectful of the speaker. Multiple behaviors are considered disrespectful and will result in a point reduction at my discretion. Repeat offenders will be asked to leave and will receive an "F" in the course. Forbidden behaviors include. I extremely encourage you to turn off your cell phone during the seminar, the same way you do when you go to a movie theater and dedicate your attention to the lecture. The following actions are prohibited:

1. Text messaging during seminar
2. Phone ringing during seminar
3. Talking during seminar
4. Arriving late
5. Leaving early
6. Reading books newspapers, etc.
7. Doing outside work



8. Any activity other than listening to the speaker and taking notes

The speakers can see every movement in the audience. Be aware of that and help make that person feel appreciated and important.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

Dishonesty will not be tolerated in this course. This includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarizing, fabricating information or citations, facilitating acts of academic dishonesty by others, having unauthorized possession of examinations, submitting work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor, or tampering with the academic work of other students. Students who are found to be dishonest will receive academic sanctions, such as an "F" grade on the exam. They will also be reported to the Head of the Department of Biological Sciences for possible further disciplinary action.

VISITORS IN THE CLASSROOM:

Unannounced visitors must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is my discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed in the classroom.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT:

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that no otherwise qualified disabled individual shall, solely by reason of his/her handicap, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any academic or Student Life program of activity. Students with disabilities may request assistance with academically related problems stemming from individual disabilities by contacting the Director of Counseling Center in the Lee Drain Annex or by calling (936) 264-1720. Students who have disabilities that may prevent them from fully demonstrating their abilities should contact the instructor as soon as possible to discuss accommodations necessary to ensure the students educational opportunity. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: no accommodation can be made until you register with the Counseling Center.

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS:

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. University policy 861001 provides the



procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). This request must be made in the first fifteen days of the semester or the first seven days of a summer session in which the absence(s) will occur. The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed.

CLASS ATTENDANCE

1. Regular and punctual class attendance is expected of each student at Sam Houston State University.
2. Each faculty member will keep a record of student attendance.
3. Each faculty member will announce the policies for accepting late work or providing makeup examinations. Students are expected to show appropriate cause for missing or delaying major assignments or examinations.
4. A student shall not be penalized for three or fewer hours of absences when examinations or other assigned class work has not been missed; however, at the discretion of the instructor, a student may be penalized for more than three hours of absences.
5. Each instructor is obligated to clarify in writing to each student enrolled in class at the beginning of the semester or summer session the instructor's classroom policy regarding absences.
6. Class absences will be recorded and counted only from the actual day of enrollment for the individual student in that specific class.

See more information on:

<http://www.shsu.edu/catalog/scholasticrequirements.html>

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Preliminary program for all the spring 2017 Biology Seminar series.

Date	Speaker	Institution	Title
January 18	First Seminar with the students		
January 25	Danielle Goodspeed	Sam Houston State, Biological Sciences	The Plant Circadian Clock Regulates Biotic Stress Resistance and Defense Hormone Levels
February 1	Paul Hanson	University of Costa Rica	Diversity of gall-forming insects in the Neotropics
February 8	Patrick Davis	Sam Houston State, Kinesiology	TBA
February 15	Andrew Fraass	Sam Houston State, Geology	Past Climates and the Evolution of the Planktic Foraminifera: Tiny fossils in a big ocean
February 22	James Spurlin	Princeton University	Integration of biochemical and biomechanical signals to direct tissue development and regeneration.
March 1	Jesus Rivas	New Mexico Highlands University	Natural History of the Green anaconda with emphasis on its reproductive biology.
March 8	Donald Pratt	Stephen F. Austin.	A Tale of Two Sexes: Are Separate Sexes and Evolutionary Dead-End in Flowering Plants?
March 15	Spring Break	Spring Break	Spring Break
March 22	Victor H. Rivera-Monroy	Louisiana State University	TBA
March 29	Manuel Leal	University of Missouri	Chipojos changed my life!
April 5	Duane L. Pierson	NASA- Johnson Space Center	Spaceflight ,microbiology, technology transfer from space to earth
April 12	Fabio Stossi	Baylor College of Medicine	Imaging Nuclear Receptors' actions at the single cell level
April 19	Glenna Dean	State Archaeologist of New Mexico	Farming in New Mexico before 1492
April 26	Ximo Mengual	Zoologisches Forschungsmuseum Alexander Koenig	Fascinating flower flies: from larval biology to phylogenomics
May 3	Michele Johnson	Trinity University	The physiology of sex: evolution of behavioral convergence in Caribbean lizards

See also the website: <https://zooramericawixsite.com/mysite>

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Date:

Name:

Seminar title:

Speaker:

List here all sources of data that the researcher used.

What is the main question that this researcher wants to answer?

Based on the assigned paper, what question(s) would you ask the researcher.

What was the most extraordinary thing that you learn from the talk.