

BIOL 4110 Senior Seminar Spring 2018

Course Explanation and Syllabus
Wednesdays 4:00 – 4:50 p.m.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Instructor

Sibyl Rae Bucheli

Email: Bucheli@shsu.edu

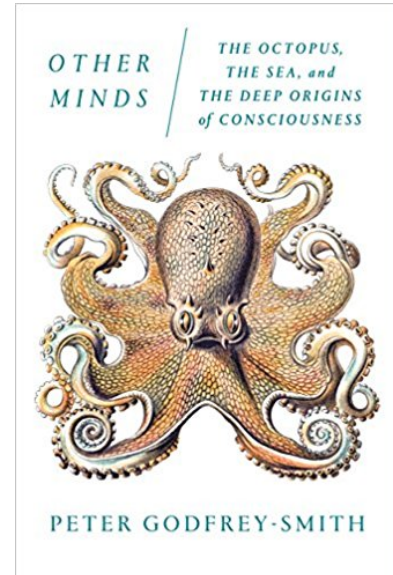
Office: LDB 142

Office Hours: Tuesday 9 am – 11 am

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Discussions of current literature in the biological sciences.

Required of senior Biology majors. Fall, Spring. Demonstrated college-level readiness in reading, writing, and math. Prerequisite: Biology major, Senior standing.



I TAKE ACADEMIC HONESTY VERY SERIOUSLY and will pursue any violations. All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The university and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

COURSE RESOURCES:

Course Text **Other Minds: The Octopus, the Sea, and the Deep Origins of Consciousness**
Peter-Godfrey Smith

Other Media I will use **Blackboard** to communicate with you about readings, syllabus changes, and any other information.

COURSE STRUCTURE:

1. **Lecture** will be in the form of a discussion, to be presented and lead by the student body except.
 - ◆ All students are expected to read the assigned material and come to class prepared to discuss the topic at hand.
 - ◆ Each student will read the assigned reading from the chosen book.
 - ◆ Each student will attend class prepared to ask and discuss 5 questions relevant to the reading.
 - **You must upload your questions via blackboard by 3:30 pm on the day they are due.**
2. At the end of the semester, you are expected to turn in to me a course **summary** over the discussion from class.
 - ◆ This summary is due by 5 pm on the Wednesday of week 15 and is to be submitted via **Blackboard**. It is to be:
 - approximately 4 pages (size 12 font, double spaced, standard margins, NO IMAGES in the body of the text), and

- you must include at least 3 citations from relevant sources published in primary literature (no text books) and listed in a “Works Cited” section at the end of the paper.
3. **Attendance** is mandatory, and you will receive a participation grade (worth 1/3 of your final grade).
 - ◆ **Lecture notes or slides** will not be posted on the internet or Blackboard. It is your responsibility to attend class, present the chapter and discussion questions, and to participate in all discussions.
 4. **Reading** the assigned chapters and all handouts is mandatory. **This class is a discussion and will only work if students read the book.**
 5. We will use **Blackboard** to communicate with about the readings, to post discussion questions, and to submit your topic idea and final report.

EVALUATION METHODS:

Participation	100 points
Questions	100 points
Final Report:	100 points
Total:	300 points

GRADING SCALE:

A	90.00%&above;
B	80.00-89.99%;
C	70.00-79.99%;
D	60.00-69.99%;
F	59.99%&below

COURSE SCHEDULE: You will be notified if there are changes to the order of class. I assigned these topics/weeks alphabetically.

	Assigned Reading Due	
Week 1	N/A	
Week 2	Chapter 1	All
Week 3	Chapter 2 Part 1	Beginnings, Living Together, Neurons and Nervous Systems
Week 4	Chapter 2 Part 2	The Garden, Senses, The Fork
Week 5	Chapter 3 Part 1	In a Sponge Garden, Evolution of the Cephalopods, Puzzles of Octopus Intelligence
Week 6	Chapter 3 Part 2	Visiting Octopolis, Nervous Evolution, Body and Control, Convergence and Divergence
Week 7	Chapter 4 Part 1	What It's Like, Evolution of Experience
Week 8	Chapter 4 Part 2	Latecomer versus Transformation, The Case of the Octopus
Week 9	Spring Break	
Week 10	Chapter 5 Part 1	The Giant Cuttlefish, Making Colors, Seeing Colors
Week 11	Chapter 5 Part 2	Being Seen, Baboon and Squid, Symphony
Week 12	Chapter 6	All
Week 13	Chapter 7	All
Week 14	Chapter 8	All
Week 15	Closing Discussion; papers to be assigned	All
Week 16	Paper Due	Upload to Blackboard by 5 pm on Wednesday
Week 17	Finals week; no class	

IMPORTANT DATES

Date	Day	Event
17-Jan	Wednesday	- Daytime on-campus and off-campus classes begin
1-Feb	Thursday	Thursday, February 1, is the 12th class day of the Spring term and represents the last day to drop a course without a "Q" grade and receive a 100% refund.
March 12 - March 16	Monday - Friday	Spring Recess for Students and Faculty
30-Mar	Friday	Good Friday - Holiday for Students and Faculty
6-Apr	Friday	Deadline to Drop 15-Week Spring Courses or Labs with a "Q" grade
4-May	Friday	Last Class Day
May 7 - May 10	Monday - Thursday	Final Exams
May 10 - May 12	Thursday - Saturday	Commencement

RESIGNATION NOTE: Students may resign with a "W" grade from the 13th class day through the last class day, but prior to any final exams being taken or course completion.

SAM POLICY

Academic Honesty: All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The university and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. **Visitors in the classroom:** Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis by the professor. In all cases, visitors must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. Students wishing to audit a class must apply to do so through the Registrar's Office. **Students with Disabilities:** It is the policy of the university that no otherwise qualified disabled student shall, solely by reason of his/her handicap, be excluded from participation in, or denied benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any academic or Student Life program or activity. Disabled students may request help with academically related problems stemming from individual disabilities by contacting their instructor, school/department chair, or by contacting the university Chair of the Committee for Continuing Assistance for Disabled Students/ Director of Counseling Center (located in Lee Drain Annex, phone 936-294-1720). A student with a disability is encouraged to register with the university Counseling Center, as well as contacting their instructor about assistance needs. Accommodation cannot be made until the student has initiated the request with the Counseling Center. Every semester that the student desires accommodations, it is the student's responsibility to complete a Classroom Accommodation Request Form at the Counseling Center and follow the stated procedure in notifying faculty. Accommodations for disabled students are decided upon documentation and need on a case-by-case basis by the Counseling Center. All requests are handled with confidentiality according to university procedures.

Religious Holy Days Policy: Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that the university 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 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 15 days of the semester or the first 7 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

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

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.
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