COURSE DESCRIPTION
New developments and discoveries that extend the boundaries of the 'known world' are at the heart of academic research. **In three parts**, this departmental seminar course will 1) examine current topics in ecology and evolutionary biology through the very pioneers in these fields, 2) expose students to various presentation methodologies and ways to evaluate their effectiveness, and 3) explore the importance of academic integrity and discuss examples of academic misconduct.

**Weekly seminars** Invited scholars actively conducting research will present their work in weekly, 50-minute long seminars followed by five minute Q&A. **In addition to mandatory attendance at the weekly seminars**, graduate students will be encouraged to attend a 1-hour, student-only pre-seminar session/luncheon with the invited speaker to participate in an informal group dialogue.

**UPDATE** Students are required to complete the online weekly speaker assessments in Carmen 'Activities > Survey'. **This activity replaces the single presentation evaluation.**

**Presentation styles and techniques** Effective communication is a fundamental component of research. This course will expose students to various resources for preparing and evaluating different types of presentations for academic and general audiences. **Resources, and discourse between the students and the instructor about these resources, will be available and occur online via Carmen.**

**Academic integrity and misconduct** Part of effective communication is that the reported work is accurate and repeatable. This course will also explore the importance of academic integrity through an examination of 1) the International Center for Academic Integrity's six "Fundamental Values", 2) accurate reporting and data/sample dissemination requirements, 3) conditions that may 'favor' academic misconduct, and 4) contemporary
cases of academic misconduct. Resources and discussions on these topics will occur via Carmen.

ASSIGNMENTS

**ATTENDANCE** Students are required to attend weekly seminars. Attendance will be taken by sign-in sheet at each seminar. *Sign-in sheet will be available at the seminar up to, and no later than, ten minutes after the hour.* Three or more unexcused absences will result in an automatic 'unsatisfactory' grade.

**EVALUATING** Students are required to turn in one presentation evaluation in the Carmen Dropbox (Activities > Dropbox > Presentation Evaluations) by the end of the Autumn term. Rubric for the evaluations will be available on the Carmen class website (under Content). **UPDATE** Students are required to complete the weekly online speaker assessments in Carmen 'Activities > Survey'. This activity replaces the single presentation evaluation. The survey must be submitted no later than 9PM on the Friday immediately following the Thursday seminar; the survey will close at that time. Three or more missing evaluations will result in an automatic 'unsatisfactory' grade.

**DISCUSSIONS** Students are required to participate in online discussions about topics via Carmen Forums 'Activities > Discussions' by posting questions and responses to questions within the topic threads during the allotted discussion timeframe. Students will be alerted via email when the discussion forums are open and the accompanying materials posted. It is strongly recommended that students create an email filter that will automatically move all emails for this course into a folder separate from the general email. Emails for this class will always have in the Subject Heading "EEOB8896_4" and this can be used as the search term for the filter. Nonreceipt of emails will not be an acceptable excuse. If you suspect that you are not receiving alerts/emails for this class, please contact the instructor immediately. Nonparticipation in two or more discussion threads will result in an automatic 'unsatisfactory' grade.

**READINGS** To participate in the discussions, students must read the assigned material that will either be posted on the Carmen class page as PDFs or as links to websites. All information pertaining to the
readings and the discussions can be found in the "Table of Contents" on the "Content" Carmen page.

**GRADING** Students will be graded according to 1) attendance to weekly seminars, 2) participation in online discussions and 3) completion of online presentation evaluations. Students will receive a 'satisfactory' grade upon successful completion of the aforementioned tasks. An 'unsatisfactory' grade is earned for the aforementioned reasons or unexcused incompletion of the assignments.

**GRADE CHANGE REQUESTS** will be accepted for five school days after grades are posted in Carmen, starting the day after the grade is posted. I will be happy to talk with you about your performance on assignments any time thereafter, but absolutely no grade changes will be made after that date.

**ACCOMMODATION OF SPECIAL NEEDS** “Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; [http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/](http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/).” Please contact the instructor privately within the first two weeks of the semester to discuss your situation.

**ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT** “It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term “academic misconduct” includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct [http://studentlife.osu.edu/csc/](http://studentlife.osu.edu/csc/).” I expect every student to behave with high integrity, and we also expect every student to understand what actions might be construed as academic misconduct. If I suspect a student of such behavior, I will take vigorous action in response.

*Last Revision: 08/27/2014*