
BIOL5193.001: Graduate Seminar in Biology
Fall 2018

Instructor Information: Dr. Jon Seal
Department of Biology
The University of Texas at Tyler
3900 University Blvd, Tyler, TX 75799
Office: BEP 264
Meeting time: Monday 9:05-10am, HPR 140.
Office hours: Monday 10-11 am, TTh 10-11:30or by appointment
Email: jseal@uttyler.edu

Topic: The topic of this seminar will be “Mechanisms of Fungus-Gardening Ant Behavior, Ecology and Evolution”

While there is no required textbook in this class, I would recommend this book as a general reference (\$10 ebook or <\$20 paperback) is found here. It may help you with the jargon and other odd words.

Hölldobler B, Wilson EO. *The Leafcutter Ants*. New York: W.W. Norton; 2011. 160 p.

Course Description: This is a graduate seminar intended to examine the latest developments in the field of the impacts on the evolutionary ecology of fungus-gardening ant biology.

Evaluation and Grading: This is a 1 hour graduate course. I expect you are here because you want to be here. Therefore attendance and participation is required. Grades will be assigned on participation during each class meeting. Typically graduate students earn an A or B, or in rare cases a C. You will succeed in the class if you come having read the paper, ask questions and participate in the discussion. However, you will not earn an A if you come to class unprepared and spend time on your phone, tablet or laptop or spend time preparing for another class or grading assignments. You also won't get a good grade if you miss class. Nobody likes speaking to an empty room. For this class to work, everyone needs to participate!

Readings. Each meeting time a student will be required to lead the discussion for an assigned paper. I will assign papers from the primary literature. If students would rather present an alternative, they may suggest one. Papers should come from top tier ecological journals, such as those published by *Science* or *Nature* (*Science*, *Nature*, *Nature Communications*, *Nature Ecology Evolution*, etc.), *Current Biology*, *Ecology*, *Journal of Ecology*, *Journal of Animal Ecology*, *Functional Ecology*, *Oecologia*, and so on). Entomological Journals are good, too, such as *Ecological Entomology* or *Environmental Entomology*. Microbiology journals are also good places to look.

Due to low enrollment, enrolled students in the class should expect to present more than once.