

Syllabus BIOL 5193 – Graduate Seminar

Spring 2026

Instructor:

Dr. Lance R. Williams & Professor Marsha G. Williams, BEP 129, Phone – 565-5878, Email – lwilliams@uttyler.edu or mwilliams@uttyler.edu; Office Hours: W & F 8:30-10, or by appointment.

Course Description: Science and pseudoscience

Course Objectives/Student Learning Outcomes:

- Critically read and discuss the topic of science and pseudoscience.
- Prepare a syllabus and lesson plans for a nonmajors course.

Required Texts:

Sagan, C. 1996. The Demon-Haunted World: Science as a Candle in the Dark.
Pigliucci, M. 2010. Nonsense on Stilts.

Evaluation: Students will be evaluated based on the following work:

Participation will count for 100% of the grade. We will record individual responses each week – please come prepared to participate in discussion. **YOU WILL NOT GET AN A IF YOU FAIL TO READ AND PARTICIPATE!** If you will be absent from class please let us know in advance. You will be required to lead chapter discussions over the semester. Students will make and present a syllabus for a non-majors class.

We will follow a 10-point scale for grading:

90-100% = A, 80-89% = B, 70-79 = C, 60-69% = D, 0-59% = F

Academic Misconduct: Submitting plagiarized work to meet academic requirements including the representation of another's work or ideas as one's own; the unacknowledged word for word use of another person's ideas; and/or the falsification, fabrication, or dishonesty in reporting research results shall be grounds for charges of academic misconduct. Any cheating or other type of academic misconduct will be reported to university administration and at minimum will result in automatic failure of the course. Cell phone use during exams is strictly forbidden.

TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE

<u>Week</u>	<u>Lecture Topics</u>
1/12	Sagan (1-4) – Lance & Marsha
1/19	NO CLASS
1/26	Sagan (5-8)
2/2	Sagan (9-12)
2/9	Sagan (13-16)
2/16	Sagan (17-20)
2/23	Sagan (21-25)
3/2	Pigliucci (1-4)
3/9	NO CLASS
3/16	Pigliucci (5-8)

3/23	Pigliucci (9-12)
3/30	Pedagogy & Non-majors
4/6	Syllabus and Lesson Plans
4/13	Student Presentations
4/20	Student Presentations