Instructor:
Dr. Lance R. Williams, BEP 129, Phone – 565-5878, Email – lwilliams@uttyler.edu
Office Hours: MW 9-10, F 11:05-12:05, or by appointment

Course Description: Current topics in biology. Reports on research published in professional journals. Oral presentation required. This course is primarily designed for students enrolled in seminar for the first time though students presenting their second seminar may enroll.

Course Objectives/Student Learning Outcomes
1) Critically read and evaluate scientific literature,
2) Prepare a resume and cover letter for future jobs and post-graduate schools,
3) Prepare and present a group oral presentation on a current topic in Biology,
4) Learn to peer review presentations, and
5) Complete writing assignment synthesizing a body of scientific literature.

Required Texts:

Evaluation: Students will be evaluated based on the following work:
1. Preparation of a resume and cover letter that could be used for future jobs or post graduate schools (15%).
2. Attendance & participation – active attendance is required at every class. Role will be taken. You are permitted one unexcused absence. After that your participation grade will go down a letter grade for each absence (15%).
3. Group presentation – you will break into groups of 4 and give a 12 minute presentation, with 3 minutes allowed for questions, on a topic related to the book we read as a class. Members of the group will provide an evaluation of each group member (Presentation 50%, 10% of which is from the average of your peer grade).
4. An essay final exam will count for the remaining part of your grade (20%).

In the event you wish to dispute a grade, an essay outlining your argument must be submitted within one week of the assignment being handed back to you/graded. No make-up assignments will be given, unless arranged ahead of time with a valid excuse (e.g., athletic tournament, hospitalization, etc.).

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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Lecture Topics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug 26</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 2</td>
<td><strong>No class Labor Day</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 9</td>
<td>Guest speaker – Francine Durr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 16</td>
<td>Discuss Kolbert 1-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 23</td>
<td>Discuss Kolbert 5-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 30</td>
<td>Discuss Kolbert 9-13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 7</td>
<td>Guide to presentations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 14</td>
<td>Presentations – Groups 1-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 21</td>
<td>Presentations – Groups 4-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 28</td>
<td>Presentations – Groups 7-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 4</td>
<td>Presentations – Groups 10-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 11</td>
<td>Presentations – Groups 13-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 18</td>
<td>Presentations – Groups 16-18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 25</td>
<td><strong>Thanksgiving Break</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 2</td>
<td>Presentations – Groups 19-21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Important Dates:**

Nov 4 - Final date for dropping with a W

Final Exam: Dec. 11, 12:30-2:30
UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION THAT MUST APPEAR IN EACH COURSE SYLLABUS

UT Tyler Honor Code
Every member of the UT Tyler community joins together to embrace: Honor and integrity that will not allow me to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do.

Students Rights and Responsibilities
To know and understand the policies that affect your rights and responsibilities as a student at UT Tyler, please follow this link: http://www.uttyler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php

Campus Carry
We respect the right and privacy of students 21 and over who are duly licensed to carry concealed weapons in this class. License holders are expected to behave responsibly and keep a handgun secure and concealed. More information is available at http://www.uttyler.edu/about/campus-carry/index.php

UT Tyler a Tobacco-Free University
All forms of tobacco will not be permitted on the UT Tyler main campus, branch campuses, and any property owned by UT Tyler. This applies to all members of the University community, including students, faculty, staff, University affiliates, contractors, and visitors. Forms of tobacco not permitted include cigarettes, cigars, pipes, water pipes (hookah), bidis, kretek, electronic cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chewing tobacco, and all other tobacco products.

There are several cessation programs available to students looking to quit smoking, including counseling, quitlines, and group support. For more information on cessation programs please visit www.uttyler.edu/tobacco-free.

Grade Replacement/Forgiveness and Census Date Policies
Students repeating a course for grade forgiveness (grade replacement) must file a Grade Replacement Contract with the Enrollment Services Center (ADM 230) on or before the Census Date of the semester in which the course will be repeated. (For Fall, the Census Date is Sept. 12.) Grade Replacement Contracts are available in the Enrollment Services Center or at http://www.uttyler.edu/Registrar.

Each semester’s Census Date can be found on the Contract itself, on the Academic Calendar, or in the information pamphlets published each semester by the Office of the Registrar.

Failure to file a Grade Replacement Contract will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. Undergraduates are eligible to exercise grade replacement for only three course repeats during their career at UT Tyler; graduates are eligible for two grade replacements. Full policy details are printed on each Grade Replacement Contract.

The Census Date (Sept. 12th) is the deadline for many forms and enrollment actions of which students need to be aware. These include:
- Submitting Grade Replacement Contracts, Transient Forms, requests to withhold directory information, approvals for taking courses as Audit, Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit.
- Receiving 100% refunds for partial withdrawals. (There is no refund for these after the Census Date)
- Schedule adjustments (section changes, adding a new class, dropping without a “W” grade)
- Being reinstated or re-enrolled in classes after being dropped for non-payment
- Completing the process for tuition exemptions or waivers through Financial Aid

State-Mandated Course Drop Policy
Texas law prohibits a student who began college for the first time in Fall 2007 or thereafter from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. This includes courses dropped at another 2-year or 4-year Texas public college or university.

For purposes of this rule, a dropped course is any course that is dropped after the census date (See Academic Calendar for the specific date).

 Exceptions to the 6-drop rule may be found in the catalog. Petitions for exemptions must be submitted to the Enrollment Services Center and must be accompanied by documentation of the extenuating circumstance. Please contact the Enrollment Services Center if you have any questions.

Student Accessibility and Resources
In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA) the University offers accommodations to students with learning, physical and/or psychiatric disabilities. If you have a disability, including non-visible disabilities such as chronic diseases, learning disabilities, head injury, PTSD or ADHD, or you have a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment you are encouraged to contact the Student Accessibility and Resources (SAR) office and schedule an interview with the Accessibility Case Manager/ADA Coordinator, Cynthia Lowery Staples. If you are unsure if the above criteria applies to you, but have questions or concerns please contact the SAR office. For more information or to set up an appointment please visit the SAR office located in the University Center, Room 3150 or call 903.566.7079. You may also send an email to cstaples@uttyler.edu

Student Absence due to Religious Observance
Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform the instructor of such absences by the second class meeting of the semester.

Revised 05/16
Student Absence for University-Sponsored Events and Activities
If you intend to be absent for a university-sponsored event or activity, you (or the event sponsor) must notify the instructor at least two weeks prior to the date of the planned absence. At that time the instructor will set a date and time when make-up assignments will be completed.

Social Security and FERPA Statement
It is the policy of The University of Texas at Tyler to protect the confidential nature of social security numbers. The University has changed its computer programming so that all students have an identification number. The electronic transmission of grades (e.g., via e-mail) risks violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; grades will not be transmitted electronically.

Emergency Exits and Evacuation
Everyone is required to exit the building when a fire alarm goes off. Follow your instructor’s directions regarding the appropriate exit. If you require assistance during an evacuation, inform your instructor in the first week of class. Do not re-enter the building unless given permission by University Police, Fire department, or Fire Prevention Services.

Student Standards of Academic Conduct
Disciplinary proceedings may be initiated against any student who engages in scholastic dishonesty, including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

i. “Cheating” includes, but is not limited to,
   • copying from another student’s test paper;
   • using, during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test;
   • failure to comply with instructions given by the person administering the test;
   • possession during a test of materials which are not authorized by the person giving the test, such as class notes or specifically designed “crib notes”. The presence of textbooks constitutes a violation if they have been specifically prohibited by the person administering the test;
   • using, buying, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in whole or part the contents of an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program;
   • collaborating with or seeking aid from another student during a test or other assignment without authority;
   • discussing the contents of an examination with another student who will take the examination;
   • divulging the contents of an examination, for the purpose of preserving questions for use by another, when the instructions has designated that the examination is not to be removed from the examination room or not to be returned or to be kept by the student;
   • substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for oneself to take a course, a test, or any course-related assignment;
   • paying or offering money or other valuable thing to, or coercing another person to obtain an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program or information about an unadministered test, test key, home solution or computer program;
   • falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other academic work offered for credit;
   • taking, keeping, misplacing, or damaging the property of The University of Texas at Tyler, or of another, if the student knows or reasonably should know that an unfair academic advantage would be gained by such conduct; and
   • misrepresenting facts, including providing false grades or resumes, for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit or injuring another student academically or financially.

ii. “Plagiarism” includes, but is not limited to, the appropriation, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another’s work and the submission of it as one’s own academic work offered for credit.

iii. “Collusion” includes, but is not limited to, the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any section of the rules on scholastic dishonesty.

iv. All written work that is submitted will be subject to review by SafeAssign™, available on Blackboard.

UT Tyler Resources for Students
- UT Tyler Writing Center (903.565.5995), writingcenter@uttyler.edu
- UT Tyler Tutoring Center (903.565.5964), tutoring@uttyler.edu
- The Mathematics Learning Center, RBN 4021, this is the open access computer lab for math students, with tutors on duty to assist students who are enrolled in early-career courses.
- UT Tyler Counseling Center (903.566.7254)