COURSE OBJECTIVES FOR STUDENTS:
1. Gain a broader perspective of the variety of biological research and careers in biology.
2. Increase professional preparedness/readiness.

Biology Department Seminars:

*The cornerstone of this course is the Biology Department seminars, which you are required to attend.* Occasionally we may meet as a class after seminars, but generally all other assignments will be completed on your own time and will not require in class time.

Biology SEMINARS – Thursday, 4-5ish pm – Meade Hall Room 212

*The seminar series is posted on Blackboard. FYI: Upcoming seminars are also ALWAYS posted on the Biology Department webpage a week plus in advance, i.e. I will not be sympathetic to “I didn’t know…” or, “I had another conflict”.*

Bio dept website link ➔ [http://www.selu.edu/acad_research/depts/biol/index.html](http://www.selu.edu/acad_research/depts/biol/index.html)

**Attendance at seminars is mandatory!** There are only eight seminars for the entire semester. Thus, students who have missed two seminars (without a legitimate excuse, i.e. one recognized by the University and accompanied by proof) may receive an “F” for the semester.

You will be required to **SIGN IN before** seminar and also to sign out **after**. I am taking this approach because I have often seen GBIO 341 students come exceedingly late to seminars and to leave well before the seminar is ended. This is not okay because 1) it shows a huge lack of respect for the speaker, and 2) half of your grade is coming from the seminar component.

Seminars nearly always end by 5pm. However, every now and then one may go over by 5-10 minutes. You are expected to remain to the bitter end, so plan your schedules accordingly on seminar days. **Acting professionally** is part of transitioning from being a student to becoming a professional in your own right. Professional behavior includes being considerate and respectful, which means **not getting up and walking out of a seminar** before it is over even if it has extended beyond the time one had hoped for and/or is really boring.

**Grades:**

50% ... Seminar attendance and questions (2/seminar)
50% ... 4-5 Written Assignments

**Assignments:**

**Seminar Questions** will always be due at the *following* seminar, e.g. questions from the Jan 19th seminar will be due at the Feb 16th seminar.
Written Assignments will be posted on Blackboard at least two weeks before their due date. I will send out a mass email letting you know when an assignment has been posted and the specific date it is due.

VERY IMPORTANT!! assignment format details (this includes seminar questions):

- Any assignment turned in late will be reduced by 10% of the potential grade for each day the assignment is late.
- All assignments are to be computer generated, single-spaced, using either 11pt Arial or 12pt Times New Roman font.
- Multiple sheets must be STAPLED together.
- Assignments can be placed in my mailbox in the main biology office, handed to me in person, or slid under my office door.
- I will not accept assignments turned in as email attachments, i.e. it is not my job to print out your assignment and to staple sheets together. If you will not be on campus the date an assignment is due, turn it in early.

GRADING
The letter grade you receive in this course will be determined based on the total points you earn out of 100 possible points. Percentages will be converted into letter grades based on the scale below. There will be no curving, i.e. your grade will be based strictly on your performance on the graded assignments.

Grading Scale:
A  89.56 – 100%
B  79.56 – 89.55
C  69.56 – 79.55
D  59.56 – 69.55
F  59.55 and lower

Written Work:
All written work must be computer generated using 11pt Arial font, single-spaced with 1" margins, stapled. You will be docked at least one letter graded for unstapled and/or hand-written (15%) work.

Important University Policies:

Friday, March 9, is the last day to withdraw or resign from the University.

Disabilities: "If you are a qualified student with a disability seeking accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act, you are required to self-identify with the Office of Disability Services, Room 203, Student Union. No accommodations will be granted without documentation from the Office of Disability Services."
Cell phones, etc: Use of cell phones, headphones, and beepers during class is inappropriate … **this goes double for seminars!** These are very disruptive to those speaking and/or to others who are trying to listen. **Silence them AND put them away.** I guarantee if I see you playing around on them while the speaker is talking, audience members are asking questions, or I’m addressing the class, it will be counted against you. If there is some specific emergency reason why your phone needs to be on, you need to let me know in advance.

Children: University Policy states that the classroom is not a place for children, and students are not to bring their family members for day care or babysitting.

Civility: “Free discussion, inquiry, and expression are encouraged in this class. Classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of students to benefit from the instruction is not acceptable. Examples may include routinely entering class late or departing early; use of beepers, cellular telephones, or other electronic devices; repeatedly talking in class without being recognized; talking while others are speaking; or arguing in a way that is perceived as “crossing the civility line.” In the event of a situation where a student legitimately needs to carry a beeper/cellular telephone to class, prior notice and approval of the instructor is required.” Classroom behavior which is deemed inappropriate and cannot be resolved by the student and the faculty member may be referred to the Office of Judicial Affairs for administrative or disciplinary review as per the Code of Student Conduct which may be found at [http://www.selu.edu/StudentAffairs/Handbook/](http://www.selu.edu/StudentAffairs/Handbook/).

Email: **Important messages related to the course will be sent to students via email using Blackboard. Please check your email frequently, i.e. at least once a day.** Per University Policy, I can only respond to e-mails that are from your SELU account.

Academic Integrity: **Students are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity.** Behavior that violates these standards is not acceptable. Examples are the use of unauthorized material, communication with fellow students during an examination, attempting to benefit from the work of another student and similar behavior that defeats the intent of an examination or other class work. Cheating on examinations, plagiarism, improper acknowledgment of sources in essays and the use of a single essay or paper in more than one course without permission are considered very serious offenses and shall be grounds for disciplinary action as outlined in the current **General Catalogue**.