

## BIO 262: SOPHOMORE PROJECT

### COURSE SYLLABUS

---

**Dr. Kerry Byrne**

Office: DOW 205

Contact: Kerry.Byrne@oit.edu

Office Hours: MW 10 – 11 am, T 2 - 4 pm, or by appointment (email first!)

**Class Meeting Time:** Fri., 3:00 – 3:50 PM in DOW E240

*Students will only meet as a group on Friday, April 4, 2014. Students are expected to consult with Dr. Byrne and others involved in their research project on an as-needed basis.*

**Course Textbook:** Wheater, C.P., J.R. Bell, and P.A. Cook. 2011. *Practical Field Ecology: a Project Guide*. Wiley-Blackwell publishers.

**Catalog Description:** Completion of field, laboratory, or investigative project with agencies, faculty members, or industry. Includes data collection, analysis and presentation of report

**Course Objectives:** In this course, students will:

- Perform field, lab, or data synthesis methods and link them to a research question and hypothesis developed in BIO261
- Analyze and interpret data and results
- Present and discuss project results both in writing and orally

**Assessment:**

Course grades at Oregon Tech follow a “whole grade” structure: A = 100-90%, B = 89-80%, C= 79-70%, D = 69-60%, F < 60%. Student grades will be based on the following percentage breakdown:

Component	% of grade
Development of field and/or lab work plan	10
Implementation of work plan	10
Preliminary results with some analysis	10
Draft research report	5
Final research report	25
Draft poster	5
Final poster presentation	25
Participation in instructor consultations and briefings	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

**Important note on student grades:** students who are unable to complete course requirements during spring quarter will be assigned an “IP.” In this case, data collection may proceed in the summer and/or fall of 2014, but the field and/or lab work plan, along with instructor consultations, *must* take place during spring quarter.

**Development of field/lab work plan:** this assignment should be turned in via email by Friday, May 16 at 4 pm. What you should include:

- 1 – 2 paragraphs summarizing your research goals, scientific question(s) addressed, hypothesis, and the implications of your proposed research
- A timeline (with dates!) that details when you will:
  - a. collect your data (or each data type)
  - b. analyze that data that you've collected
  - c. submit your preliminary data analysis
  - d. write and submit your draft research report
  - e. edit and change your draft research report
  - f. submit your final research report
  - g. submit your draft poster
  - h. give your poster presentation

Notes:

- I require seven (7) days between when you submit a draft research paper or poster to provide feedback. Work this into your timeline. If you want to receive a grade for BIO262 by the end of fall quarter 2014, you **must** submit your draft final research report **no later** than Nov. 24.
- There are 2 options for poster presentations: (1) the sustainability summit: April 21, 2 – 4 pm; (2) the student research symposium, date TBD, but probably in mid-November.

**Implementation of work plan:** this is the fun part! Do your research project!

**Preliminary results with some analysis:** email me the data that you've collected, organized and summarized in an excel spreadsheet. Also include at least one summary figure or table.

**Draft research report:** this should be a full draft (including all sections) of your research report. It will be written as a scientific paper, with sections including: title, abstract, introduction, methods, results, discussion, and literature cited. I will provide an additional handout with more information on the structure and formatting of this report. A minimum of one draft research report is required; I am happy to look over additional drafts with adequate notice and turnaround time.

**Final research report:** this will incorporate feedback from my reviews, and the reviews of other faculty, community, or federal agency partners involved in your project. This final report must be submitted by Friday, Dec 4, 2014 if you would like to receive course credit for fall 2014.

**Draft poster:** your draft poster should include all sections: title, introduction, methods, results, discussion, literature cited, and appropriate figures and tables.

**Final poster presentation:** you will be graded on your incorporation of reviewer comments, and the quality and clarity of your final presentation.

## General Details

**Disability services:** If you may need a course adaptation or academic accommodation because of a disability, or if you might need special arrangements in case the room or building must be evacuated, please see me as soon as possible. I rely on Disability Services for assistance in verifying the need for accommodations and developing accommodation strategies. If you may have a need and have not previously contacted that Disability Services (located in LRC 228), I encourage you to do so as soon as possible at 541-851-5179.

**The Honor Code:** Cheating and plagiarism are strictly enforced in this course. Students caught cheating will receive a zero on the assignment and be reported to student services.

**Plagiarism** means to:

- to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own
- to use (another's production) without crediting the source
- to commit literary theft
- to present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source

**All of the following are considered plagiarism:**

- turning in someone else's work as your own
- copying words or ideas from someone else without giving credit
- failing to put a quotation in quotation marks
- giving incorrect information about the source of a quotation
- changing words but copying the sentence structure of a source without giving credit
- copying so many words or ideas from a source that it makes up the majority of your work, whether you give credit or not (see our section on "fair use" rules)

For more information on plagiarism and how to properly cite scientific works and writings contact your instructor or visit [www.plagiarism.org](http://www.plagiarism.org)