

Course title and number      Seminar ENTO 481  
Term                                Fall 2013  
Meeting times and location    Thursdays 4:00-5:00 PM, Heep Center – West Campus, Room 102

### Course Description and Prerequisites

Prerequisite(s): None

**ENTO 481, Seminar (1 credit hour)** This course prepares students to write scientific papers for publication based on scientific research and the scientific method. During the semester, students will practice critical thinking, reading, and writing skills, develop research skills, and demonstrate written communication with a scientific audience. Instruction will be accomplished through a “step-by-step” process that will begin with library research methods and how to properly cite these papers. Students will receive specific instruction in the development of titles, abstracts, introductions, materials and methods, results, conclusions and/or discussion, and references cited. Proper formatting of tables and figures, scientific names, and requirements of specific journals will be discussed.

### Student Learning Outcomes

**Course Objective:** Upon successful completion of ENTO 481, students will be able to write properly formatted scientific papers that reflect current research, analytical reading, critical thinking, data analysis, and mastery of Standard Written English.

#### Enabling Objectives

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Use university resources to find appropriate scientific literature
- Identify hypotheses and evaluate the proper use of scientific method within published scientific resources
- Develop strong titles, abstracts, introductions, and discussions, and use these to critically analyze scientific data
- Recognize well written materials and methods, and develop materials and methods sections that adequately describe scientific processes
- Develop succinct and complete summaries of complex scientific presentations, describe the current entomological research as presented in a public forum, and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the research
- Develop original research proposals based on current literature, discuss the merits of the proposed research, and design materials and methods for that research

### Instructor Information

Name                                Dr. S. Bradliegh Vinson  
Telephone number                979-845-9754  
Email address                      [bvinson@tamu.edu](mailto:bvinson@tamu.edu)  
Office hours                        By appointment  
Office location                     Entomology Research Building, 305

Name Dr. Adrienne Brundage  
 Telephone number 979-845-9731  
 Email address [brundage@forensicientomologist.com](mailto:brundage@forensicientomologist.com)  
 Office hours MWF 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM  
 Office location Heep Center, 404A

### Textbook and Resource Material

No book is required for this course. Resource material will be obtained through the library catalogue and in-class handouts.

### Grading Policies

#### Criteria for Grade Determination

Assignment	Points Possible
Assignment 1: Abstract and hypothesis	2
Assignment 2: Title and abstract	5
Assignment 3: Title, abstract, hypothesis and results summary	5
Assignment 4: Title, abstract, hypothesis, results summary, materials and methods	6
Assignment 5: Title, abstract, hypothesis, results, materials and methods, summary of references	6
Assignment 6: Review of papers rejected from journals	7
Assignment 7: Seminar review	10
Assignment 8: Seminar review	12
Assignment 9: Review of published paper	12
Assignment 10: Review of published paper	14
Assignment 11: Research proposal	21
<b>Total</b>	<b>100 points</b>

#### Grading Scale:

Out of 100 possible points:

A = 90 to 100 points

B = 75 to 89 points

C = 60 to 74 points

D = 45 to 59 points

F = <45 points

Grades are not negotiable. Your final course grade will be based on your work in the course. If you are concerned about a grade, please see your instructors during office hours.

Assignments: There are two steps you must follow to submit your assignments. You will

1. Submit an electronic copy of each assignment to TurnItIn.com (for more information on TurnItIn.com, see "Other Pertinent Course Information" below).
2. Submit an electronic copy of each assignment to the appropriate assignment page on eCampus.

Your papers will be graded online, and you will be able to see comments via the eCampus interface.

After you receive a grade, you may discuss the grade with instructors. To protect your privacy, University rules prohibit instructors from discussion of student grade issues via email. Plan on making an appointment for a conference or drop by during regular office hours.

Assignment Format: Assignments must be typed on a computer into a Microsoft Word document. Formatting will vary according to journal style, and will be discussed each week.

Late Assignments: You are required to submit assignments electronically by due dates listed on this syllabus. Late submission of assignments will not be accepted without prior arrangement or a University approved excuse.

### Attendance

Attendance is mandatory for this course, and attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class period. The University views class attendance as the responsibility of an individual student. Attendance is essential to complete the course successfully. University rules related to excused and unexcused absences are located on-line at <http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule07>.

### Course Topics, Calendar of Activities, Major Assignment Dates

Week	Topic	Assignment
1	The scientific method and scientific writing	None
2	Introduction to scientific literature, titles, and abstracts	Assignment #1
3	Proper citations, scientific names, and abstract formatting	Assignment #2
4	Identification of hypotheses, good and bad titles, good and bad abstracts, summary of results	Assignment #3
5	Analysis of introductions, literature search methods	Assignment #4
6	Journal formats, proper citation methods	Assignment #5
7	Peer review, reasons for rejection	Assignment #6
8	Attendance of scientific seminar	Assignment #7
9	Attendance of scientific seminar	Assignment #8
10	Analysis of scientific method and scientific writing techniques	Assignment #9
11	Structure of discussion and conclusions	Assignment #10
12	Structure and format of proposals	None
13	Summary of literature searches, proper submission of research proposals	Assignment #11
14	Review of scientific methods	None

### Other Pertinent Course Information

Classroom Behavior: Disruptive classroom behavior is defined as anything that would interfere with “an instructor’s ability to conduct the class” or “the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program.” *TAMU Student Rules* explicitly prohibit disruptive behavior.

### eCampus

This course has a companion website hosted through eCampus. It is important for you to access eCampus on a regular basis because it will be the place where you will:

- See the class assignment calendar to keep up with your assignments
- Download additional course materials, like handouts, power points, and articles

- Access TurnItIn.com to submit your assignments
- Upload assignments for grading
- Check your grades using the online grade book

### **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact Disability Services, in Cain Hall, Room B118, or call 845-1637. For additional information visit <http://disability.tamu.edu>

### **Academic Integrity**

*For additional information please visit: <http://aggiehonor.tamu.edu>*

*“An Aggie does not lie, cheat, or steal, or tolerate those who do.”*