

SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY
TECHNIQUES OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH - BIOL 5305 - FALL SEMESTER 2014

PROFESSOR: Jim Zech
Office: 218 Warnock Science Building
Phone: 837-8114
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OFFICE HOURS: By appointment or MWF: 10:00–10:50 A.M.; T: 9:00–11:00 A.M.; 1:00–1:50 P.M.

TIME AND PLACE: MWF: 8:00 - 8:50 a.m.; 101 WSB

TEXT (?): A Style Manual (optional)
Rosalind Franklin: The Dark Lady of DNA. Brenda Maddox (not optional!)
Various Papers! (not optional!)

CLASS TOPICS/ASSIGNMENTS AND TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

WEEK	DATE	TOPICS
1	8/25	INTRODUCTION
	8/27	WELCOME TO GRADUATE SCHOOL!
	8/29	SERVICE LEARNING
2	9/1	LABOR DAY
	9/3	SECRETARIAL RESPECT
	9/5	WHY SUL ROSS?
3	9/8	HOW TO BE A GOOD GRADUATE STUDENT
	9/10	SCIENTIFIC METHOD
	9/12	ADVISOR SHOPPING; TO THESIS OR NON (OR MINI?)
4	9/15	RESOURCES
	9/17	LIBRARY ED
	9/19	COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION
5	9/22	CONSIDER JOINING A SOCIETY
	9/24	DEGREE PLAN; REQUIRED, TRANSFER, AND UNDERGRAD FOR GRAD CREDIT HRS
	9/26	JOURNALS AND THEIR STYLE
6	9/29	DEVELOPING A REFERENCE MANUAL
	10/1	WRITING, WRITING, WRITING, WRITING, WRITING, AND MORE WRITING!
	10/3	WORDS IN PRINT ARE FOREVER, CHOOSE THEM WISELY
7	10/6	REWRITES - IT'S NOTHING PERSONAL!
	10/8	CONSISTENCY
	10/10	TWO OF THE FOUR AGREEMENTS
8	10/13	STYLE MANUALS; A THESAURUS IS NOT A TYPE OF DINOSAUR!
	10/15	AUTHOR ABBREVIATIONS
	10/17	GRAMMAR: Y'ALL VS YOUS GUYS; TO COMA OR SEMI COLON?
9	10/20	THE PROPOSAL: IS IT REALLY JUST A WASTE OF TIME?
	10/22	RESEARCH PAPER; THE OVERLOOKED ABSTRACT; FIGURES AND TABLES
	10/24	THESIS TIME LINE
10	10/27	ATTEND A MEETING; TALK CRITIQUE
	10/29	SAMPLING; COLLECTIONS: WHY SRSC AND NOT SRSU?; COLLECTING
	10/31	BE TRUE TO YOUR SCHOOL (THE GRASSHOPPERS STAY HERE!)
11	11/3	FIELD SEASONS - ONE IS NEVER ENOUGH!
	11/5	GRADUATION 101 - YES THERE ARE DEADLINES!
	11/7	COMPS: YES, YOU SHOULD STUDY
12	11/10	CV BUILDING
	11/12	APPLY FOR A JOB
W	11/14	WRITING, WRITING, WRITING, WRITING, WRITING, AND MORE WRITING!
13	11/17	LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION
	11/19	INTERVIEW SKILLS - DO I REALLY NEED THAT BLUE SUIT?
	11/21	KEEPING THE JOB; QUITTING THE JOB; TEACHING TRICKS
14	11/24	EXAM BUILDING AND TAKING; POWER POINT AND BEYOND
	11/26	THANKSGIVING - NO CLASSES
	11/28	THANKSGIVING - NO CLASSES
15	12/1	RESEARCH PAPER SYMPOSIUM: SPEAKING, SPEAKING, SPEAKING!
	12/3	PAPER DISCUSSION; WRITE A GRANT PROPOSAL
	12/5	DEAD DAY
16	12/8	FINAL EXAM: BOOK DISCUSSION - MS FRANKLIN (8:00 - 10:00 A.M.)

FEATURES:

ASSIGNMENT SHEETS
THINGS MY ADVISOR NEVER TOLD ME/LIFE LESSON #398
Z-BREAK

DATES TO CONSIDER:

??? AUG: HUMAN RESOURCES GRADUATE STUDENT ORIENTATION (MUC 210; 2:00 P.M.)
1 SEPT: NO CLASSES - LABOR DAY
19 SEPT: LAST DAY TO APPLY FOR DEC 2014 GRADUATION
(?) 17 SEPT: ACADEMIC SKILLS, LIBRARY, 2ND FLOOR CLASSROOM
5 NOV: Z-BREAK
7 NOV: Z-BREAK
14 NOV: LAST DAY TO DROP ANY CLASS WITH A W
26 NOV: NO CLASS -THANKSGIVING
28 NOV: NO CLASS -THANKSGIVING
3 DEC: REFERENCE MANUAL IS DUE (DURING CLASS)
8 DEC: FINAL EXAM, 8:00 a.m. - MS. FRANKLIN DISCUSSION

POINT DISTRIBUTION: IT'S NOT ABOUT POINTS, IT'S ABOUT COMPLETION!

GRADING:

Your final grade in Techniques will be determined by completion (to my satisfaction) of all assignments. Complete them all equals an A. Don't complete them all equals an F. An F equals retake the course (its required for the degree!).

ABSENCES: Contact me ahead of time.
PAPERS/BOOKS: Read them and be ready to contribute to the discussion!
PRESENTATIONS: Practice, reading is *NOT* acceptable.

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- Demonstrate competence in the area of evolution through natural selection.
 - Demonstrate successful application of the scientific method in the investigation of a biological topic or issue.
 - Demonstrate competence in the application of taxonomy.
 - Identify the significant events and people in the development of the biological sciences.
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COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- Students are expected to choose an advisor, and complete a degree plan;
 - Students will demonstrate effective library research skills;
 - Students will develop scientific writing skills;
 - Students are expected to plan, organize, and develop a thesis;
 - Students shall develop professional presentation skills; and
 - Students are expected to critique different professional presentation skills.
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DISABILITIES INFORMATION:

Qualified students with disabilities needing academic or other accommodations to ensure full participation in the programs, services and activities at SRSU should contact Counseling and Accessibility Services, 112 Ferguson Hall, Box C-122, 432-837-8203.