The goal of senior seminar is to bring together groups of seniors to examine issues relevant to their major in a way that integrates all of their previous coursework, acting as a capstone experience. Specifically, we have three goals:

1. Demonstrate and improve your scientific reading and writing skills

2. Demonstrate and improve your oral presentation and listening skills

3. Explore a variety of scientific writing

Senior Seminar is divided into two courses. In the fall, we focus on scientific literature, and in the spring (Biology 481) we transition to reflection and general interest scientific readings.

Fall Course Activities

1. Read, understand, and evaluate scientific papers in the current literature. We will read eight papers. Each paper will contribute, through quizzes and other written and oral evaluation, five percent of the course grade, for a total of 40% for this section.

2. Write and present a literature review. Each student will choose a topic, review the literature on that topic, and present his or her conclusions in a forty-minute slide or web-based presentation. Students will be encouraged to ask and answer appropriate questions following the presentation. In addition, quizzes will be used to evaluate class understanding of the main points of presentations. 50% of the course grade will be determined by this project: ten percent for a draft of the review, ten percent for the oral presentation, ten percent for quizzes on presentation material and twenty percent for the final draft of the review.

3. Two exams will be given: a midterm exam will test paper reading skills. The standardized Biology Major Field Exam will be taken by biology majors in late October. Together these exams contribute ten percent of the course grade.

Web Page

News, announcements, and instructor contact information will be posted on the blackboard course website.

Liberation (Escher, 1955)
Grading Scale

Course grades will be assigned using the following scale. Plusses and minuses will be assigned within grade ranges.

- 90-100  A
- 80-89   B
- 70-79   C
- 60-69   D
- 0-59    F

Expectations

In order to make this a positive experience, you must be organized, prepared and attentive. Disruptive behavior (e.g., talking during presentations) will not be tolerated. Phones, video games, texting, etc. are not allowed in class. Students using cellphones in any way during class will be marked absent for the day and any assignments will be graded as zero. Do not leave class without permission. If you fall asleep in class, I may ask you to go home and rest.

Academic Honor Code

Students are expected to abide by the University’s Honor Code. Accordingly, students are expected to neither give nor receive unauthorized aid on exams, lab reports, or class papers. When writing, all citations must be acknowledged and referenced. If in doubt about how to use references in your writing, please see your instructor. Do not use uncited text from any source in your written assignments, even with minor changes. This constitutes academic dishonesty, and will be penalized harshly.

Originality Reports

All written assignments will be checked for originality by computer. This means that any use of uncited text will be detected. In addition to turning in a paper copy of your work to the instructor, you must submit an electronic copy to http://www.turnitin.com/. Your assignment will not be graded until the computer originality analysis is complete.

1. Point your web browser to http://www.turnitin.com/

2. Click on User Login, and then click on **New User** (unless you already have an account at turnitin.com).

3. Enter your UE email address and choose a password. Remember your password. You will need it. Click the **next** button to enter your name and address. When you are finished, return to the login page and login as a student. You only need to register once. From now on, just login as a student.

4. Click on **join new class**. Join B480. The course ID is **3429721**, and the enrollment password is **seniors**. You only need to join B480 once. From now on, just click on your B480 link.

5. To submit a paper, click on the **turn it in!** button. Select an assignment, then choose and upload your file. Press submit, and you are done.

Reading

All assigned reading is to be completed before class. This is important so that students begin with the required background. Quizzes at the beginning of class will give students an opportunity to demonstrate mastery of the assigned reading.

Attendance

Attendance at all class meetings is required. Unexcused absence will result in a grade of zero for any missed assignments. Students excused from a class meeting will be responsible for making up the missed material. **Missed quizzes may be made up the following day ONLY.** (Not the following class period - you may need to come to daily office hours.)

Assignments

Assignments are to be turned in in class, on the due date, with the exception of excused absence. Students with excused absence should turn in their work the following day. When using computers for writing, data analysis, or presentation graphics, be sure to back up often and check the status of file transfers, printing, et cetera before the last minute. Failure of technology does not constitute a valid excuse.