

## Syllabus for Fall, 2006

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

### Course Activities

1. Read, discuss, and review general-interest scientific books. Each student will read five books. Two books will be chosen from the reading list and reviewed by the student and three books will be read and discussed by the entire class. Review or discussion (including written quizzes) of each book will contribute five percent of the course grade, for a total of 25% for this section. Each student will present an oral review of one chosen book, and the written review of this book is due on the day of the oral presentation.
2. Read, understand, and evaluate scientific papers in the current literature. Each set of papers will contribute, through quizzes and other written and oral evaluation, five percent of the course grade, for a total of 25% for this section.
3. 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. 40% 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 ten percent for the final draft of the review.

4. Two exams will be given: A midterm exam on 7 November will test topics from student book presentations and 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.



Liberation (Escher, 1955)

## Grading Scale

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

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

## Web Page

News, announcements, and instructor contact information are constantly updated on the course web site:

<http://faculty.evansville.edu/be6/b480f06>

## Expectations

### 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 **1561501**, 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 paste all of your text for this assignment into the text box. 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.

## Portfolio

One copy of your final paper should be turned in in your Biology portfolio, along with all of the other assignments from this and other portfolio classes.