

FS 518 – Seminar (1 Credit hour)  
Fall 2014

**Time:** Wed 4:30-5:20 PM

**Lecture Room:** TLC 148

**Professor:** Dr. Carolyn H. Bohach

**Office Location:** Mines 317

**Phone:** 208-596-1747

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**Teaching Associate:** Connie Muniandy

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**Prerequisites:** None

**Student Learning Outcomes and Assessment:**

1. Gain experience and confidence in public speaking.
2. Be able to critically evaluate scientific data.
3. Be able to understand good/proper experimental design through critical analysis of published original research.
4. Be current and knowledgeable in recent advances in the student's scientific area.

**Procedure:**

1. Student will select one scientifically significant published research paper
2. The paper must be published within the last 5 years
3. Presentations should be approximately 30 minutes in length.
4. Copies of the research paper to be presented must be handed out ONE WEEK in advance; also, send a pdf copy to the instructor.
5. All students must read and make their own critical evaluation of the paper.
6. At the end of the presentation, all students will critique the presenter's performance.

**Suggestions:**

1. Select content that is concise enough to be presented in the time allotted (30 minutes)
2. Emphasize the objective of the study
3. Present the bare essentials of the methods
4. Present and discuss the pertinent results and their implications. Be sure to emphasize the author's conclusion
5. Allow approximately 5-10 minutes to critically analyze the paper:
  - a. Was the hypothesis to be tested clearly stated?
  - b. Was the experimental design appropriate and adequately controlled?
  - c. Were the methods employed adequate to reach the reported conclusion?
  - d. Were the data presented in a logical format?
  - e. Do the data support the conclusion?
  - f. Overall: was the paper well-written?
6. Slide preparation:
  - a. Each slide should represent ONE central idea. Do not cram too much information onto one slide.
  - b. You may need to reconstruct figures/tables to make them visually understandable.
  - c. Lettering must be of sufficient size. Generally avoid font size <28.
  - d. Remember the reasons for using visual aids:

- i. To clarify an idea, not to provide a full description.
  - ii. To emphasize an important point.
  - iii. To help the speaker follow an organized plan of presentation.
  - iv. To enhance the interest of the audience.
7. Dress appropriately and professionally.
  8. Be totally familiar with the room and equipment setup before presenting.

**Grading:**

	<u>Points</u>
1. Presentation evaluation by Instructor	200
2. Average of evaluations by audience	100
3. Class attendance and participation	<u>200</u>
Total	<b>500</b>

**Grades:**

A = 90-100%    B = 80-89%    C = 70-79%    D = 60-69%    F = <60%.

***Reasonable accommodations:*** Reasonable accommodations are available for students with a documented disability. If you have a disability and may need accommodations to fully participate in this class, please visit the Access Center (Washington Building 217) to schedule an appointment with an Access Advisor or visit the Dean of Students at the University of Idaho. All accommodations **MUST** be approved through those offices.

***Plagiarism:*** Plagiarism is dishonest and is **not** tolerated. If caught using all or portions of a current or former classmate's writing or other sources of information, a grade of "zero" will be given for the exercise. Additional penalties for plagiarism are possible as outlined in the University of Idaho and/or Washington State University Student Handbook.

## Course Schedule

<b>Week</b>	<b>Seminar</b>
1 8/27/14	Introduction
2 9/3/14	Demonstration
3 9/10/14	#1
4 9/17/14	#2
5 9/24/14	#3
6 10/1/14	#4
7 10/8/14	#5
8 10/15/14	#6
9 10/22/14	#7
10 10/29/14	#8
11 11/5/14	#9
12 11/12/14	#10
13 11/19/14	#11
14 11/26/14	Thanksgiving Break
15 12/3/14	#12
16 12/10/14	Dead Week
17 12/17/14	Finals Week

**Seminar Evaluation Form - FS 518**

Presenter's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Score (%) \_\_\_\_\_ Overall Letter Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Evaluator: \_\_\_ Student      \_\_\_ Faculty      \_\_\_ Staff

1. Was the selection a paper that significantly advanced knowledge? \_\_\_\_\_  
(10 points)

2. Did the presentation flow well – i.e., did the speaker move from one point to the next in a smooth manner? \_\_\_\_\_  
(20 points)

3. Were the visuals neat, legible and easy to understand? \_\_\_\_\_  
(20 points)

4. Did the speaker use the visuals to full advantage – i.e., did the speaker explain them well? \_\_\_\_\_  
(25 points)

5. Did the speaker critically evaluate the paper? \_\_\_\_\_  
(10 points)

6. Did the speaker handle the questions with ease?  
    Were the answers clear and did they relate to the questions asked? \_\_\_\_\_  
(10 points)

7. Did the speaker dress professionally/appropriately? \_\_\_\_\_  
(5 points)