

**PLB 480 – Senior Seminar
Spring Semester – 2016**

Lectures: Friday; 2:00 – 2:50 p.m., Life Science II, Rm 430
Instructor: Dr. Stephen Ebbs, LS II, Rm 422, 453-3226, sebbs@plant.siu.edu
Office Hours: MWF 10-12 or by appointment
Websites: <https://online.siu.edu> (Material and readings on Desire2Learn)

DESCRIPTION:

The undergraduate catalog entry for this course describes PLB 480 as “Reading, writings, discussions and presentations of current research topics in plant biology”. In practice, the course has served as a broader capstone for our undergraduate program, touching on a variety of topics, including the transition to graduate school and/or careers. The course has also emphasized skills and experiences necessary to pursue a career in a discipline associated with biology, or science in general. The course format includes discussions, career building exercises, exposure to primary scientific literature, and writing assignments. Some out of class work for these activities is required for the course.

Supplementary reading material

There is no required book associated with this course. Readings associated with some class meetings will be provided by the instructor and posted to the course D2L page. These readings should be completed prior to the scheduled date of that class meeting. For some class sessions, preparation may require students to view online videos (e.g., Ted Talks or YouTube video) which serve in lieu of or in addition to formal reading assignments. Information will be provided on any other readings that are needed for this class.

Assignments (see next page for due dates): Handouts explaining each assignments will be distributed in class

Structured discussion preparation materials:	100 pts (5 @ 20 pts each)
Hypothetical job application materials:	50 pts, first drafts
Hypothetical job application materials:	50 pts, revisions
TOTAL	200 pts

Course grades:

A = >180 pts; B = 160-179 pts; C = 140-159 pts; D = 120-139 pts; F = <120 pts

Emergency Procedures.

Southern Illinois University Carbondale is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for study and work. Because some health and safety circumstances are beyond our control, we ask that you become familiar with the SIUC Emergency Response Plan and Building Emergency Response Team (BERT) program. Emergency response information is available on posters in buildings on campus, available on BERT's website at www.bert.siu.edu, Department of Safety's website www.dps.siu.edu (disaster drop down) and in Emergency Response Guideline pamphlet. Know how to respond to each type of emergency.

Instructors will provide guidance and direction to students in the classroom in the event of an emergency affecting your location. It is important that you follow these instructions and stay with your instructor during an evacuation or sheltering emergency. The Building Emergency Response Team will provide assistance to your instructor in evacuating the building or sheltering within the facility.

PLB 480 Schedule and assignments calendar

Week	Date	Topic
1	Jan 22	Course introduction
2	Jan 29	Career services presentation – Career Services 101
3	Feb 5	Job sectors for the sciences / Résumés versus curriculum vita
4	Feb 12	Discussion #1 – Food security: Agriculture v. biofuels
5	Feb 19	Pros/cons of graduate school
6	Feb 26	Social networking for scientists
7	Mar 4	Discussion #2 – Fracking
8	Mar 11	Freeform discussion
9	Mar 18	Spring Break – No class
10	Mar 25	Discussion #3 – Biotechnology
11	Apr 1	Ethics in science
12	Apr 8	Discussion #4 – Climate change
13	Apr 15	Interdisciplinary science
14	Apr 22	Discussion #5 – Dual-use science
15	Apr 29	Science literacy
16	May 6	Freeform discussion

Week	Date	Assignment due
1	Jan 22	None
2	Jan 29	None
3	Feb 5	Copy of job advertisement for job application project.
4	Feb 12	Discussion #1 copy of paper read and one page synopsis of that paper
5	Feb 19	Personal information in Résumé and CV form, first draft
6	Feb 26	Job application cover letter, first draft
7	Mar 4	Discussion #2 copy of paper read and one page synopsis of that paper
8	Mar 11	None
9	Mar 18	Spring Break – No class
10	Mar 25	Discussion #3 copy of paper read and one page synopsis of that paper
11	Apr 1	Résumé, CV, and cover letter, revised version
12	Apr 8	Discussion #4 copy of paper read and one page synopsis of that paper
13	Apr 15	Statement of purpose, first draft
14	Apr 22	Discussion #5 copy of paper read and one page synopsis of that paper
15	Apr 29	None
16	May 6	Statement of purpose, revised version

IMPORTANT DATES *

Semester Class Begins.....	01/19/2016
Last day to add a class (without instructor permission):.....	01/24/2016
Last day to withdraw completely and receive a 100% refund:	01/31/2016
Last day to drop a course using SalukiNet:.....	04/03/2016
Last day to file diploma application (for name to appear in Commencement program):	02/12/2016
Final examinations:	05/09–05/13/2016

Note: For outreach, internet, and short course drop/add dates, visit Registrar's Academic webpage <http://registrar.siu.edu/>

SPRING SEMESTER HOLIDAYS

Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday Holiday 01/18/2016

Spring Break 03/12—03/20/2016

WITHDRAWAL POLICY ~ Undergraduate only

Students who officially register for a session may not withdraw merely by the stopping of attendance. An official withdrawal form needs to be initiated by the student and processed by the University. For the proper procedures to follow when dropping courses and when withdrawing from the University, please visit <http://registrar.siu.edu/catalog/undergraduatecatalog.html>

INCOMPLETE POLICY~ Undergraduate only

An INC is assigned when, for reasons beyond their control, students engaged in passing work are unable to complete all class assignments. An INC must be changed to a completed grade within one semester following the term in which the course was taken, or graduation, whichever occurs first. Should the student fail to complete the course within the time period designated, that is, by no later than the end of the semester following the term in which the course was taken, or graduation, whichever occurs first, the incomplete will be converted to a grade of F and the grade will be computed in the student's grade point average. For more information please visit:

<http://registrar.siu.edu/grades/incomplete.html>

REPEAT POLICY

An undergraduate student may, for the purpose of raising a grade, enroll in a course for credit no more than two times (two total enrollments) unless otherwise noted in the course description. For students receiving a letter grade of A,B,C,D, or F, the course repetition must occur at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. Only the most recent (last) grade will be calculated in the overall GPA and count toward hours earned. See full policy at

<http://registrar.siu.edu/catalog/undergraduatecatalog.html>

GRADUATE POLICIES

Graduate policies often vary from Undergraduate policies. To view the applicable policies for graduate students, please visit

<http://gradschool.siu.edu/about-us/grad-catalog/index.html>

DISABILITY POLICY

Disability Support Services provides the required academic and programmatic support services to students with permanent and temporary disabilities. DSS provides centralized coordination and referral services. To utilize DSS services, students must come to the DSS to open cases. The process involves interviews, reviews of student-supplied documentation, and completion of Disability Accommodation Agreements.

<http://disabilityservices.siu.edu/>

PLAGIARISM

Student Conduct Code http://srr.siu.edu/student_conduct_code/

Guidelines for Faculty <http://pvcaa.siu.edu/common/documents/Plagiarism/Guide%20to%20Preventing%20Plagiarism.pdf>

MORRIS LIBRARY HOURS

<http://www.lib.siu.edu/about>

SAFETY AWARENESS FACTS AND EDUCATION

Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender is a Civil Rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, etc. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find the appropriate resources here: <http://safe.siu.edu>

SALUKI CARES

The purpose of Saluki Cares is to develop, facilitate and coordinate a university-wide program of care and support for students in any type of distress—physical, emotional, financial, or personal. By working closely with faculty, staff, students and their families, SIU will continue to display a culture of care and demonstrate to our students and their families that they are an important part of the community. For Information on Saluki Cares: (618) 453-5714, or siucares@siu.edu,

<http://salukicare.siu.edu/index.html>

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INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE

SIU contains people from all walks of life, from many different cultures and sub-cultures, and representing all strata of society, nationalities, ethnicities, lifestyles, and affiliations. Learning from and working with people who differ is an important part of education as well as an essential preparation for any career. For more information please visit: <http://www.inclusiveexcellence.siu.edu/>

LEARNING AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Help is within reach. Learning support services offers free tutoring on campus and math labs. To find more information please visit the Center for Learning and Support Services website:

Tutoring : <http://tutoring.siu.edu/>

Math Labs <http://math.siu.edu/courses/course-help.php>

WRITING CENTER

The Writing Center offers free tutoring services to all SIU students and faculty. To find a Center or Schedule an appointment please visit <http://write.siu.edu/>

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION & EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

Our office's main focus is to ensure that the university complies with federal and state equity policies and handles reporting and investigating of discrimination cases. For more information visit:

<http://diversity.siu.edu/#>

Additional Resources Available:

SALUKINET: <https://salukinet.siu.edu/cp/home/displaylogin>

ADVISEMENT: <http://advisement.siu.edu/>

PROVOST & VICE CHANCELLOR: <http://pvcaa.siu.edu/>

SIU ONLINE: <http://online.siu.edu/>