

**Honors Enrichment Seminar: Survey of Biological Research (HON 120-300)**  
**FR 1014, 3:30 – 4:20 PM**  
**Fall Semester, 2013**

*Instructor:* Dr. Stuart Borrett  
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Office hours – by appointment  
Tel: 962-2411  
e-mail: [borretts@uncw.edu](mailto:borretts@uncw.edu) (Please include HON120 in the email subject line and allow up to 24-hours for a response)  
web: <http://people.uncw.edu/borretts/teaching.html>

*Prerequisite:* Formal enrollment in the Honors Scholars Program or consent of the director.

*Course description:*

**General HON120:** Students study a specialty topic and participate in a variety of related enrichment activities on the campus and in the community. By direct contact, students have the opportunity to broaden their educational experience in both traditional and contemporary forums. Discussion and brief written assignments. May be repeated under different subtitles, for a maximum of three semester hours.

**Specific for HON120-300:** The primary goal of this course is to introduce you to the research disciplines and faculty in the Department of Biology and Marine Biology. The course will highlight opportunities for undergraduates to conduct biological research regionally and internationally. Faculty members from the department have volunteered to give short presentations or tours of their research facility and to answer your questions about their field of research. Meeting the faculty and hearing about their research will hopefully assist you in choosing and contacting a mentor for your Honors project. Three additional goals of this seminar course are (1) to introduce you to what research-active biology professors do with their time and (2) to explore the ways that biologists communicate their findings to others through oral presentations and written publications, (3) practice reading and summarizing the primary scientific literature.

*Student Learning Outcomes:*

- Students will meet faculty members and become familiar with the breadth of scientific research conducted in the Department of Biology and Marine Biology and the research opportunities available to them (*Evaluation tools – Class participation, Research synopsis*)
- Students will practice reading and summarizing scientific articles from the primary literature (*Evaluation tool – Research synopsis*)

*Course evaluation:*

Your final grade for this course will be based on completion of 12 assignments over the course of the semester. Please see the *Course Outline* for a summary of due dates for each assignment. A description of the assignments is provided below. Points will be deducted if the instructions are not followed, so please read instructions carefully. Late assignments will not be accepted.

Research Synopsis (12 assignments worth 1 point each)

For each week that we have a faculty presenter, you will write a brief synopsis that summarizes the required reading for that week and describes the research discussed in class. Include in the synopsis your impressions of how this research might be relevant in a broader context. For each week that we tour a campus facility or research site, you will write a synopsis of the equipment and resources available at that facility or site and the type of research that may be conducted there. Typed synopses should be no more than 1 page in length (single-spaced), and turned in during the following class meeting. Please check spelling, grammar, and your rhetoric before turning in your assignment! Partial credit will be deducted for poor composition. Please see Chapter 7 of Pechenik (2013) for advice on writing summaries.

*Final letter grade:*

- A Satisfactory completion of 10 of 11 assignments
- B Satisfactory completion of 9 of 11 assignments
- C Satisfactory completion of 8 of 11 assignments
- D Satisfactory completion of 7 of 11 assignments
- F Satisfactory completion of  $\leq 6$  of 11 assignments

*Attendance policy:*

Attendance at the presentations is mandatory; absences show disrespect for our speakers who are volunteering their time. The only valid excuses I will accept for missing a class are unavoidable conflicts such as a previously scheduled academic obligation, serious illness, injury, hospitalization, or a family emergency/obligation. You must contact me and provide me with written/verifiable documentation of the conflict **before** class in order for it to be an excused absence. **An unexcused absence will automatically lower your grade by one letter.** If you miss a presentation (excused or not), you cannot write a synopsis for that week.

*Personal electronics:*

Use of mobile phones is not permitted in this class. This includes texting! I will confiscate your phone for the remainder of class if I see you texting. Please turn off your mobile phone prior to class. Use of laptops and tablets is not permitted in class; please take note by hand.

*A note on academic honesty...*

Please refer to the section entitled The UNCStudent Academic Honor Code (Policy 03.100) outlined on pages 5 - 11 in the UNCCode of Student Life to become familiar with UNCpolicy on plagiarism and cheating (<http://uncw.edu/stuaff/odos/documents/cosl-current.pdf>). I expect all students to read this information, to abide by it, and to be aware that academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in HON120. I will report all instances of academic dishonesty to the Office of the Dean of Students.

*Students with disabilities:*

If you are a student with a diagnosed disability and require special accommodations to attend HON120, please contact the Office of Disability Services in Westside Hall (x3746) to obtain an accommodation letter. Bring a copy of the accommodation letter to me and we will discuss the appropriate accommodations based on the recommendations of Disability Services.

*Course Resources:*

Website: <http://people.uncw.edu/borretts/teaching.html> (Survey of Biological Research)

Book: Pechenik, J. A. (2013) A short guide to writing about biology (8<sup>th</sup> edition). Pearson Education, Inc.

*Related Opportunities:*

The Department of Biology and Marine Biology has a weekly seminar series on Fridays from 2-3 pm in Dobo 103. Seminar speakers include departmental faculty and graduate students as well as biologists from other institutions. This is an excellent opportunity to learn more about biological research areas and opportunities. I strongly encourage you to attend this seminar if you can.

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**FA 2013 Schedule**  
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| Date     | Topic/Activity  | Assignment Due    | Points |
|----------|---|-------------------|--------|
| 8/26     | Course Introduction   | n/a               |        |
| 9/2      | Labor Day – No Class  | n/a               |        |
| 9/9      | Dr. Chris Finelli<br>Biology and Marine Biology Department Chair    | n/a               |        |
| 9/16     | Research-Active University Faculty<br>Primary Scientific Literature | Research Synopsis | 1      |
| 9/23     | Dr. Frampton<br>Virology  | n/a               |        |
| 9/30     | Dr. Kamel<br>Marine Biology   | Research Synopsis | 1      |
| 10/7     | Dr. Rhodes<br>Microbiology  | Research Synopsis | 1      |
| 10/14    | Dr. Covi<br>Physiology  | Research Synopsis | 1      |
| 10/21    | Dr. Arbogast<br>Mammology and Wild Summaco (Ecuador) (tent)         | Research Synopsis | 1      |
| 10/28    | Dr. Long<br>Ecology   | Research Synopsis | 1      |
| 11/4     | Dr. Wilbur<br>CMS Oyster Hatchery                                   | Research Synopsis | 1      |
| 11/11    | Dr. Pyott<br>Physiology   | Research Synopsis | 1      |
| 11/18    | Dr. Erwin<br>Microbial Ecology                                      | Research Synopsis | 1      |
| 11/25    | Dr. Brander<br>Ecotoxicology  | Research Synopsis | 1      |
| 11/27-29 | THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY  |                   |        |
| 12/2     | Dr. Taylor<br>Tour of Microscopy Facility (tent.)                   | Research Synopsis | 1      |