

Biology 4936 Seminars in Ecology and Evolution (1 credit)

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What: At least once a week there are seminars from researchers in ecology or evolution. These seminars are given by local people and by visitors. The point of these seminars is to learn about exciting research. What questions are they asking? What are they discovering? What new scientific stories can we hear about ecology or evolution? What makes up these fields anyway? The seminars are often followed by receptions which are a chance to get to know each other better and to ask questions.

This course invites undergraduates to listen to these presentations and write about them. After all, this is a major part of the ideas climate at Wash U. It would be a great idea to get in the habit of going to seminars, with this course, or without.

In addition to attending seminars, we will meet three times during the semester, early on and a couple of times later.

When: Most seminars are 4:00 on Thursdays, though some are on other days. Look carefully at the schedule below. The three meetings apart from the seminars will be arranged at times that work for the students in the course.

Requirements: Attend 10 seminars. During the seminar, take notes on paper, not computer, because you should be mostly listening. For each write a brief piece of 300 to 500 words that gives the following:

1. Title of the presentation, speaker name, date, and place.
2. What hypotheses or general ideas is the speaker testing or exploring? Choose one of them and write a brief piece on it:
 - a. What is the main idea?
 - b. What evidence does the speaker give to support it?
 - c. What do you think about it?
 - d. How important is it?
 - e. Do you agree that the evidence supports the theory?

Listen intently to the whole seminar, but only write about one piece that seems to be a complete sub story. If you want a bit more detail, people usually put the reference for a given point on the slide and you can look up the paper, but this is not required. Since you are listening more than taking notes, if there is a figure or something you want to go back to, the reference is a way to do it, or even a phone photo of the slide in question.

We recommend you focus on the seminars earlier in the semester when you are less busy with other classes.

Finding interesting seminars to attend: For an up-to-date list of biology seminars at Wash U, please visit <http://wubio.wustl.edu/events> ... the links on the left will direct you to a list of seminars and speakers on different subcategories (e.g., Evolution, Ecology and Population Biology)

For biology seminars in nearby universities, please visit:

UMSL: <http://www.umsl.edu/divisions/artscience/biology/Seminars/seminar.html>

SLU: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Ovdx3v3x4JEBMgkTZ-mk6VwZRsXOfSy6jGpNAj0lsjs/edit#gid=977292021>

*Please note that job talks, student-invited speakers, and special lectures tend to be particularly interesting talks!

*** A link to important information regarding campus resources for students in the Danforth Campus on Sexual Assault Reporting, Academic Accommodations, Disability Resources, Bias Reporting, Mental Health, Center for Diversity & Inclusion, Preferred Name and Gender Inclusive Pronouns, Military Service Leave, and Important Dates, is available from the course's home page. **