

**Senior Seminar  
BIOL 4900 Section A (CRN# 82012)  
Fall Semester 2022**

**Instructor:** Dr. John G. Phillips (he/him)  
Office: BC 2210  
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**Office (Student) hours:** **Monday 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM** **Wednesday 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM**  
Or by appointment (please send me an email to my valdosta.edu account with  
“appointment” in the subject line and I will accommodate as time permits).

**Schedule** **Monday 5:00 PM - 6:50 PM BC 1202 In class discussion, review and presentation**  
**Tuesday 12:45 PM - 1:35 PM BC 1023 Biology Science Seminar**

**Blazeview** [Senior Seminar – BIOL 4900A](#)

#### **IV. Attendance Policy**

Students are expected to attend all Class Sessions. If you fail to attend one of the Class Sessions you must provide documented evidence (e.g. from doctor, police, etc.) that circumstances beyond your control prevented you from attending. *Students with more than three unexcused absences will receive an “Unsatisfactory” grade for the course.* In class attendance will be recorded within the first 10 minutes of class. Students arriving after the first 10 minutes of class will be considered absent.

#### **V. Major Field Test**

The Major Field Test is a comprehensive, standardized test prepared by the Educational Testing Service and designed to evaluate the student’s general knowledge in biology. The test scores will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the Biology Department’s curriculum. VSU student scores are also compared to the national average to identify possible weaknesses in the curriculum. Thus, students should take the test seriously and make every effort to excel on it. Advice on how to review for the MFT in Biology will be provided in class. Completion of the MFT with a score of 140 or higher is a course requirement, and students who fail to complete the MFT will receive a grade of unsatisfactory for the course.

Each individual student is responsible for contacting the VSU Office of Testing (University Center, Entrance #5, Room 4167; Phone 229-245-3878) to make an appointment for the MFT in Biology. Students must take the MFT by October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022. A fee is assessed to take the MFT. The Biology Department will pay the fee for each student to take the test once. Students who fail to score at least 140 on the test must re-take it until a score of 140 is achieved (re-take/s must be completed by Thursday November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022). The student will pay the cost for any re-take of the MFT. The MFT in Biology consists of approximately 150 multiple choice questions in cell biology, molecular biology and genetics, organismal biology, and population biology, evolution, and ecology. Please refer to the following website <https://www.ets.org/mft/about/content/biology> for more information on the MFT and sample questions.

#### **VI.**

7. **Trait diversification** – Some species develop unique traits to handle ecological challenges. Pick one/some and tell me about it!

**IX. Cheating or Plagiarism**

Incidents of cheating or plagiarism will result in an automatic “Unsatisfactory” grade for the course and referral to the Office of Student Conduct for disciplinary action.

**The Review Paper and the Oral Presentation will be submitted by the instructor to Turnitin/SafeAssign, for a plagiarism review.**

Students are required to read and sign the Department of Biology’s Plagiarism Policy and give it to the instructor by August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Please find the form in BlazeVIEW- Plagiarism folder.

For the VSU’s Academic Integrity Code please see <http://www.valdosta.edu/administration/student-affairs/student-conduct-office/>

For the VSU’s Academic Honesty policies and procedure please see <http://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-aff>



**Student Checklist of Course Requirements:**

- \_\_\_ Completion of the online plagiarism tutorial (By August 23rd)
- \_\_\_ Annotated bibliography (Due September 12th)
- \_\_\_ Completion of MFT in Biology ( 140) – Submit photocopy of score to instructor. (by October 3rd)
- \_\_\_ Research paper – (Due October 4th)
- \_\_\_ In-class Presentation PowerPoint (via email) – (Due 1 week before presentation)
- \_\_\_ Completion of Biology Senior Exit Questionnaire. (November 28th)
- \_\_\_ Attendance of all scheduled class periods (including all student presentation sessions)
- \_\_\_ Attendance of & submission of completed evaluation forms from Biology Department Seminars.