**EEB 604: Convergence and Communication in Science (CCiS – 2 credits)**

Spring 2020

EEB 604 (3 credits): Wednesday 10:30-11:45; Friday 10:30-11:45

Plus: Outreach field trip (1 day);

Story telling to the public workshop (1 day);

Story telling in practice (options vary – 8 hours)

**Instructor:** Dr. Jennifer S. Forbey **Office:** SN 102C

**Phone:** 426-4426  **Email:** jenniferforbey@boisestate.edu

**Office Hours:** please make an appointment

Readings and online communication: Readings from the scientific literature will be assigned before each class period. They will be available in pdf format on a shared google drive site.

**Course objectives:**

This course is intended to introduce and reinforce convergence of disciplines and across different societal institutions to better communicate science in ecology, evolution and behavior (EEB) through readings, seminar discussions, and practicing forms of communication. By the end of this course you should be able to:

* Identify and practice ways by which scientist successfully communicate advances in the convergence of science in the fields of EEB
* Recognize important barriers in converging science and communicating the value and outcomes of scientific discoveries in the fields of EEB
* Understand modern approaches to overcoming barriers in converging science and communicating the value and outcomes of scientific discoveries in the fields of EEB
* Build your capacity to communicate science as a mechanism to engage with society.

**Assessment:**

Assessment will be based on assignments, homework and notebook construction, and participation.

Assignment points percent of grade

participation 260 57%

assignments 200 (20 each) 43%

**Grading Scale:** Your grade is based on the percentage of total course points (420 points possible) that you earn.

Grade percent

A 100-93.3

A- 93.2-90.0

B+ 89.9-86.7

B 86.6-83.3

B- 83.2-80.0

Grade percent

C+ 79.9-76.7

C 76.6-73.3

C- 73.2-70.0

D+ 69.9-66.7

D 66.6-60.0

F 59.9 & below

It is your responsibility to check your grades on the EEB 605 blackboard site so that you can always be aware of the grade you are earning.

**Participation**

Because this is a seminar style course, participation is required. Whether you have read ahead of time, prepared questions, and thought critical about reading materials will be assessed by your participation.

* + - * Participation implies interaction with the class including attendance, good listening skills, critical and constructive comments and active involvement in class discussions.
      * Participation will include hosting and coordinating a communication discussion with one invited speaker during the semester. Speakers will be listed on the schedule. Please be available on the day(s) of their visit to help with introductions, transportation, etc.

**Assignments**

Please submit any assignments as a hardcopy. Unless otherwise stated, electronic copies (assignments handed in by email) will not be accepted. Late assignments will lose 5% of the grade per day penalty, including weekends. See below for template.

Lead Discussion

In the first month of class, each of you will lead a 30 minute discussion of a paper that you consider captures some of the barriers and approaches to overcome barriers to converging and communicating science.

* + - * Please post your paper/chapter on the shared google drive the Wednesday the week before your discussion.
      * Please have a good understanding of the reading and be prepared to engage the class.
      * While leading the discussion, please consider what went well and what could be improved.
      * Afterwards, write a short paragraph about the important components of leading and participating in Socratic seminar type of discussion and turn in a hardcopy the next class.

Reflection (written and oral)

In the last week of class, we will have an in-class writing assignment and a discussion to reflect on important principles and processes in convergence and communication in EEB, the tool of a seminar discussion for learning, and approaches to advancing your field.

**Academic Honesty**: “Cheating or plagiarism in any form is unacceptable. The University functions to promote the cognitive and psychosocial development of all students. Therefore, all work submitted by a student must represent her/his own ideas, concepts, and current understanding.” (Article 3 Section 1 of the Student Code of Conduct). Any student who copies, or knowingly shares inappropriate information, will receive a zero score on the assignment. All instances of misconduct will be reported to the office of the Student Conduct, the Chair of the Department of Biological Sciences, and the Dean of COAS – no exceptions.

Guideline for Weekly Assignment

Student Name

Course

Date of Wednesday class

Current week’s Speaker Name

**Part A**: Summary of the papers assigned. The papers will be available on google drive the prior Wednesday. Page limit: 2 pages double-spaced, no exceptions.

Your summary should include:

The hypotheses tested or major objective, important findings, links between the paper and previous discussions we have had in class, independent thought about what you thought of the theory, analysis, practice of, or claims of the papers

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**Part B**: Communication questions for the speaker on Friday BEFORE their talk (this can be single spaced):

1)

2)

Meaningful questions include those about how they have or have not communicating their science to stakeholders through manuscripts, social media, outreach, ect.

**Part C**: Answers to your questions by seminar speaker on Friday AFTER their talk and your Friday discussion (this can be single spaced):

1)

2)

\*\*Remember\*\*

Weekly follow-up: Provide answers (Part C) to questions you posed in the weekly assignment (above, Part B) on google docs after the Thursday speaker and your Friday meeting with them - you have until the following Tuesday to complete this.