

ENV/MAR 491 – 01 Seminar in Environmental and Marine Studies

Vincent T. Breslin, Ph.D.
340 Jennings Hall
Phone: (203) 392-6602
FAX : (203) 392-6614
email: breslinv1@southernct.edu

Spring Semester

Office Hours: Tuesday 3:00-5:00 pm; Wednesday 10:00-12:00 pm, Thursday 11:00-12:00 pm. Office hours outside of scheduled times may be requested by an individual or group by email or phone.

Course Description:

Seminar in Environmental and Marine Studies (ENV/MAR 491) serves as the culminating course in the environmental and marine studies minors and is designed to provide students with written and oral communication skills necessary for them to be active participants in public and scientific arenas. Presentation and research skills are also necessary in graduate school, employment situations, educational settings and in public forums. Professionals in a variety of fields may be challenged with the task of researching a topic, presenting it to a group of peers and defending your perspectives and sources of information. Students will learn how to research a topic effectively and comprehensively. Students will be guided through outline preparation, draft versions and final presentations of a research paper. Presentation skills, operation of audio/visual equipment, questioning techniques and critical analysis will also be addressed. Students will learn these skills and techniques through an in-depth analysis of an environmental issue of their choice. The chosen issue will then become the basis for the research, writing and presentation activities.

Course Objectives: Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Use library resources (electronic data bases, journals, books, etc.) to conduct research;
- 2) Design, prepare and deliver an original seminar presentation using state-of-the-art audio-visual technology;
- 3) Critique seminar presentations;
- 4) Evaluate the credibility of a variety of sources of information (journals, internet, magazines, newspapers, etc.);
- 5) Research, outline, write and revise an original research paper.

Grading Policy:

Class Participation/Attendance/Homework	30%
Seminar Presentations (including preparatory materials)	20%
Written Research Paper (including outlines, drafts)	30%
Seminar Attendance and Evaluation	20%

Class Participation: Attendance in this course is mandatory. Class participation consists of attendance, completing assigned readings before class and verbal participation during class discussions.

Presentations: Each student will prepare and present two seminar presentations during the semester. Seminars (20 minute) will be presented in front of the class using overhead and PowerPoint presentation techniques.

Written Paper: A written research paper will be prepared on a topic of interest to the student. Each topic requires prior instructor approval. Students will also present the results of their research as a poster presentation.

Seminars Outside of Class: Students are required to attend, evaluate and discuss with the class their participation in 3 external seminar presentations during the semester. Seminar participation requires prior instructor approval.

Required Text: Scientific Papers and Presentations. 1996. Martha Davis and Gloria Fry, Academic Press, 296 pp. (ISBN 0122063708)

Deadlines for topics, seminar evaluations, paper drafts, posters and seminar presentations are absolute. Late papers will not be accepted.

Class Policies:

Students should be aware of the SCSU policy concerning academic honesty (SCSU 2001-2002 Student Handbook, page 80). Violators of this policy will not receive credit for the assignment and possible course failure.

If you need course adaptations or accommodations due to a disability, if you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible (preferably within the first week of class). Students requiring assistance are requested to contact the Disabilities Resource Office and provide formal documentation of a disability.

ENV 491 – Seminar in Environmental Studies

Topic	Assignment
Introduction, review of course goals and objectives, discussion of research topics	
The Writing Process - Organizing and Writing Rough Drafts	Chapters 1-3
Searching/Reviewing Scientific Literature	Chapter 4 Submit 3 Topics
Buley Library Research Judging the Credibility of Information	Seminar Evaluation #1
Communication Skills	Chapter 18, 19 Proposal Due
Writing, Reviewing and Revising	Chapters 7, 8, 9 Bibliography Due
Presenting Data (Figures and Tables) Resume Preparation	Chapter 11
A/V Equipment and PowerPoint Learning Resource Center	Seminar Evaluation #2
No class – Spring Break	
Scientific Presentations	Chapters 13-16
Poster Presentation Preparation Microsoft Publisher	Chapter 17 Draft Paper Due
Individual Student Conferences	
Preparation for Poster Presentations	Seminar Evaluation #3
Student Poster Presentations	Draft Poster Due
Student Practice Seminar Presentations	
Writing and Paper Preparation	Final Paper Due
Student Seminar Final Presentations	Submit Presentation