SAMPLE SYLLABUS FROM A PREVIOUS YEAR

BIOSCI 611, Recent Advances in Limnology and Oceanography Seminar
MARINE AND FRESHWATER SYSTEMS: CONTRAST OR CONSENSUS?

SYLLABUS
SPRING SEMESTER 2011

This course is worth 2 credits.

**Prerequisites:** Junior Standing
BioSci 512 or Consent of Instructor

**Professor:** Dr. John A. Berges
Office: Lapham Hall (South wing) S587 (I’m often in my Laboratory, S568)
Phone: 414-229-3258, e-mail: berges@uwm.edu
Office hours: Mon 12:00 – 13.00 h

E-mail is the surest way to contact me. My phone has an answering machine, and there is a note-board outside my office. You do not need an appointment to come to my regular office hours (though it might save you a short wait). If you have a conflict with those times, please email me to schedule an alternative time.

**Class Meets:** 14.00 – 15.50 h Thursdays Lapham Hall 252

**Learning Objectives:** The purpose of this seminar is to acquaint the class with current topics and research advances in limnology and oceanography. This will be accomplished through directed readings in the recent primary scientific literature, and a series of student-led seminar discussions. In some cases, we may invite participation of local aquatic scientists with expertise in the chosen topics.

This semester the seminar will focus on questions and issues that have come up in both marine and freshwater systems in recent years. Emphasis will be placed on exploring how approaches to the questions and issues have differed between freshwater and marine ecosystems and on trying to decide the extent to which there is common scientific ground.

While the following list is not exclusive (i.e. students are very welcome to propose their own topics) specific topics that are relevant and high-profile include:

**Roles of nitrogen and phosphorus in production limitation and eutrophication**


Awareness of new organisms or new roles of organisms in ecosystems


Phosphonates in aquatic environments


Viruses and their roles in marine and freshwater ecosystems


Significance of horizontal gene transfer in aquatic environments

Natural mortality in phytoplankton

Carbon dioxide and acidification of aquatic ecosystems

Allelopathy and natural products in aquatic systems

Iron and trace metal limitation of primary producers

New threats of invasive species to aquatic ecosystems

Dead zones in aquatic ecosystems

Essential Resources:
1. There is no textbook for the course.
2. Class Website. The course will use a Desire 2 Learn (D2L)-based website in order to coordinate the class, communicate information, and also to deliver assignments and feedback. Details are provided at the end of the syllabus. Please check the website and your email frequently because you are responsible for all announcements and changes to the syllabus posted there.
3. Library work will be an important part of the course and essential to complete the assignment. In particular, the course will require extensive use of the primary scientific literature (i.e. journal articles).

Students with Special Needs: Students with special needs should come and speak with me during the first week of classes so we can best accommodate your learning style. Note University Policies: Students with disabilities. Verification of disability, class standards, the policy on the use of alternate materials and test accommodations can be found at the following: http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/DSAD/SAC/SACltr.pdf
Course Schedule (subject to modification):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Lecture Topic</th>
<th>Deadlines</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01/27</td>
<td>Course introduction</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/03</td>
<td>A bit about scientific publication and analysis of publications</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/10</td>
<td>Ethics in science</td>
<td>Topics for Presentations Selected by this Week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/17</td>
<td>NO CLASS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/24</td>
<td>Presentations #1</td>
<td>Summary for paper due before class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/03</td>
<td>Presentations #2</td>
<td>Summary for paper due before class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/10</td>
<td>Presentations #3</td>
<td>Summary for paper due before class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/17</td>
<td>Presentations #4</td>
<td>Summary for paper due before class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/31</td>
<td>Presentations #5</td>
<td>Summary for paper due before class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04/07</td>
<td>Presentations #6</td>
<td>Summary for paper due before class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04/14</td>
<td>Presentations #7</td>
<td>Summary for paper due before class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04/21</td>
<td>Presentations #8</td>
<td>Summary for paper due before class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04/28</td>
<td>Presentations #9</td>
<td>Summary for paper due before class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05/05</td>
<td>Presentations #10</td>
<td>Summary for paper due before class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05/12</td>
<td>Course wrap-up</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Grading**: Course grades are based on a series of summaries of scientific articles for discussion (turned in approximately weekly, in advance of the seminar, see separate Guidelines for Summaries), presentations of research papers and leading following discussions in class (done in class with a partner, see separate Guidelines for Presentations), and participation in discussions both in class and on-line following the seminars. Weighting will be: summaries = 50%; presentations = 30%; participation = 20%).

Approximate conversions from percentage scores to letter grades are: A-range >80%, B-range >70%, C-range >60%, D-range >50%.

**Attendance Policy**: Seminars depend on you being present in class and participating in discussion. For this reason, there is essentially no way to “make up” absences from the class and so repeated absences will result in a failing grade. If issues arise, please discuss these immediately with the professor.

**Academic Misconduct**: In this course, you are expected to perform to the best of your ability in an honest manner. Cheating, plagiarism, or other acts of misconduct will result in a severe penalty to you, as per University of Wisconsin System Chapter 1. [http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/OSL/DOS/conduct.html](http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/OSL/DOS/conduct.html). Plagiarism is a particular concern: many students seem unclear about what it involves. I recommend that you read:
http://www.plagiarism.org/learning_center/what_is_plagiarism.html because ignorance is not acceptable as an excuse.

**Religious observances:** Policies regarding accommodations for absences due to religious observance are found at the following:
http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/acad%2Badmin_policies/S1.5.htm

**Students called to active military duty:** Accommodations for absences due to call-up of reserves to active military duty should be noted.
http://www3.uwm.edu/des/web/registration/militarycallup.cfm

**Incompletes:** The conditions for awarding an incomplete to graduate and undergraduate students can be found at the following:
http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/acad%2Badmin_policies/S31.pdf

**Discriminatory conduct (such as sexual harassment):** Definitions of discrimination. Harassment, abuse of power, and the reporting requirements of discriminatory conduct are found at the following: http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/acad%2Badmin_policies/S47.pdf

**Complaint procedures:** Students may direct complaints to the head of the academic unit or department in which the complaint occurs. If the complaint allegedly violates a specific university policy, it may be directed to the head of the department or academic unit in which the complaint occurred or to the appropriate university office responsible for enforcing the policy.

**Grade appeal procedures:** Procedures for student grade appeal appear at the following:
http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/acad%2Badmin_policies/S28.htm

---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

If you have a health condition or disability that may interfere with your attendance or your ability to complete course requirements, you should take the following steps. First, if you have not done so already, you should contact the Student Accessibility Center (SAC http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/DSAD/SAC/MainOffice.html) and arrange to meet with a SAC counselor who will help you determine whether your condition qualifies you for accommodations and to complete a VISA form describing the approved accommodations. Second, you should inform your instructor of your need for accommodation and provide the instructor with a copy of the completed VISA form. You are expected to complete these steps within the first three weeks of class or as soon as possible after learning of the need for accommodation, unless legitimate circumstances prevent you from doing so. If you have any questions about this process, please contact a SAC counselor.

---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

The Writing Center welcomes writers at all skill levels, inexperienced through advanced, freshmen through graduate students. FYI--over 1/3 of the students who visited in the past 4 yrs were juniors, seniors or grad students. Whether still exploring a reading, brainstorming, drafting or revising, writers can benefit from talking one with one of our well-qualified and well-trained tutors.

**FALL 2011 WRITING CENTER**

Curtin Hall 127  
Satellite: Library East Wing  
Make appointments on the web: www.writingcenter.uwm.edu  
Walk in - or - Call 414-229-4339  
Opening Day: Monday, September 13, 2010  
Monday-Wednesday 9:00 am - 7:00 pm  
Thursday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm  
Friday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm  

---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------
Information for students who are taking a course that uses Desire2Learn (D2L) for its Web site

Materials for this course are available on a course Web site. You may see these materials there anytime you wish, using a standard Web browser such as Netscape or Internet Explorer. You may print it (or parts of it) at your convenience.

In order to find and browse the course Web site for this course:

1. Call up your Web browser (either Netscape or Internet Explorer), and type in the following Web address:
   
   http://D2L.uwm.edu

2. Please notice that this Web address does not include a "www" in it anywhere!

3. This will bring up the Desire2Learn Welcome screen. You will see a location to enter your Username and Password.

4. Your Username is your ePanther username (the same username as your ePanther campus email), without the "@uwm.edu" part. Do not hit Enter after you have typed your ePanther username! Either hit the Tab key on your keyboard, or use the mouse to click in the box next to Password.

5. After you have typed in your ePanther password, then please hit Login.

6. You should then see a welcome screen. You will see on the screen a list of My Milwaukee Courses: that use Desire2Learn (there will be more than one title if you are registered in more than one course that is using Desire2Learn). The course title is a hot link, so if you click your mouse on the title it will take you directly to your Web course site.

7. If you have any difficulty getting on the course Web site, please close down your Web browser completely and open it up again, then try logging on again using the instructions above. If you know your username, but have forgotten your password, you may click on the underlined "Forgot your password?" on the Have an Account? Login Here screen, and have your password sent automatically to your UWM email account. If you still are unable to get on the course Web site, please contact the Help desk as described below.

8. When you are finished looking around the site, always "Logout" completely if you are in a computer lab, or at least shut down your Web browser (Netscape or Internet Explorer) completely, since otherwise the next person who uses the machine will be using your course account!

What to do if you have problems with Desire2Learn (D2L)

If you have problems with a student login (e.g., you forgot your password, or if you just can't get on) or if you run into any other typical Desire2Learn difficulties, help is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. You may do one of the following:

- send an email to help@uwm.edu
- pick up a phone and call 229-4040 (or 4040 on a campus phone)
- go to Bolton 225 (this lab is not open all day -- check for specific hours)
- if you are calling from off campus but within Wisconsin, call 1-877-381-3459