FIELD EXPERIENCES IN ETHNOBOTANY & ECOLOGY
BIOL 484
Frostburg State University
Intersession 2014
3 credits
Dr. Brosi

Contact Information
205 Compton Hall, 301-687-4213, slbrosi@frostburg.edu
If unavailable contact Ms. Bebe Elrick, Administrative Assistant, 301-687-4166

Course Hours
This is a blended course it will be partially online and partially in-person.
Online course schedule is below: Jan. 2nd-22nd
Mandatory in-person course fieldtrip: Jan. 12th-21st, Cherokee, NC. Failure to attend the course trip will result in a failing grade.
Dr. Brosi will only respond to emails from your official FSU email accounts.

Required Textbooks

Recommended Textbooks

A “Rite in the Rain” 8 ½ by 11 bound yellow field notebook is required for the course. Please feel free to bring in additional tree and woody plant identification guides to the fieldtrip. Other useful materials include a 10X magnifying lens, a pocket knife for cutting twigs and bark, a comfortable pair of boots, rain gear, and a good winter coat.

This course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.
Course Description
Unique field course where students gain practical training and experience using ecological and ethnographic field methods. Exploration of environmental impact issues is also part of the course. A research or service learning project is required. Additional travel fees may apply. Prerequisite: permission of instructor. You must complete BIOL 149, and BIOL 150 or 161, and at least one of the following BIOL 305 or 314.

Course Objectives:
- **Communication:**
  - *Writing Intensive:* you will have several tasks and assignments that are focused on writing and resulting in writing 5 pages or 2,000 words of text per day.
  - *Reading Intensive:* you will be required to read at least 400 pages of text per day. There will be required textbook reading and several online reading assignments. Evaluation of reading will occur through online reading quizzes and lecture exams.
- **Disciplinary Standards:**
  - Biology Standards:
    - “Ability to tap into the interdisciplinary nature of science: Biology is an interdisciplinary science.
    - Ability to understand the relationship between science and society: Biology is conducted in a societal context” (Brewer et al 2011).
  - Ethnobiology Standards:
    - “Connections: all living things are connected, both to each other and their environments
    - Awareness for different worldviews
    - Change: in cultures, human interactions, and the environment” (McClatchey et al. 2013).

Course Assessment
The course will be assessed using The Research on the Integrated Science Curriculum (RISC) Survey, [http://www.grinnell.edu/academic/csla/assessment/risc](http://www.grinnell.edu/academic/csla/assessment/risc) for pre- and post-course survey.

Learning Objectives, Tasks, & Assessments:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning Objective</th>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Assessment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LO 1: inventory of a species used in Cherokee basketry including nomenclature (Latin, Cherokee, &amp; English), morphology, and ecological characteristics</td>
<td><strong>Task 1:</strong> Written wiki species descriptions.</td>
<td><strong>Assessment 1:</strong> Rubric for written species descriptions.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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(analysis) and construction of a written species description online including correct terminology and references (synthesis) 

| LO 2: compare historic and modern materials & methods for construction and dying of baskets diagram trends and causes (evaluation, analysis) |
| Task 2: Introduction in Scientific Poster, Creation of Hypotheses |
| Assessment 2: Rubric for poster presentation evaluation: Society for Economic Botany Morton Award |

| LO 3: evaluate the current sustainability of the resource based on supply, demand, & threats. Estimate and predict changes in supply for the sustainability of the resources (evaluation) |
| Task 3: Completing in the matrix sheet, Materials/Methods/Result s/Conclusions in poster |
| Assessment 3: Rubric for poster presentation evaluation: Society for Economic Botany Morton Award |

**Grading Policies**

Grades will only be discussed in-person during office hours or scheduled appointments. Please feel free to come by my office for clarification of your grade. Grades will not be discussed via email.

Letter grades will be based on a 100-point scale:
- Neither CS nor NC are options for this course.
- Late and incomplete assignments will not be accepted. Missing assignments will result in a failing grade for that particular assignment.

Final grades will be determined by a 100 point system.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Point Ranges</th>
<th>Grade Point Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90.00 – 100</td>
<td>4.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80.00 – 89.99</td>
<td>3.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70.00 – 79.99</td>
<td>2.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60.00 – 69.99</td>
<td>1.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0 – 59.99</td>
<td>0.000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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This is a 400-level college course and expectations are appropriately high and related to rigorous quizzes, tests, and assignments. The approximate grade distribution for this level of a course on this topic with this instructor is 5% As, 25% Bs, 40% Cs, 25% Ds, and 5% Fs. An A is an exceptional grade and C is an average grade. There are no incompletes or continuing study available for this course.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Weight by % of grade</th>
<th>Point Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Pre- &amp; Post-RISC</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>5 points each pre/post RISC survey, 10 pt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Participant Response Survey</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>5 points each, course and fieldtrip, 10 points total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Discussion Board</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>150 points 5 daily discussion board entries &amp; responses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Blog</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>50 points, online midterm exam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Abstract</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>150 points 5 daily entries, 30 pts. each</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>SEB Poster</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>150 points, Draft 1: 50 pts., Draft 2: 50 pts., Final Draft: 50 pts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
<td><strong>100 points</strong></td>
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All tasks are due by 2pm and will be available online using blackboard. Any technical difficulties need to be addressed with FSU helpdesk at 7777.

**Task 1: Pre- & Post-RISC Survey: 10 points, 10%**
Completion of the RISC pre- and post- course survey is required. You must submit documentation of completing the survey to receive credit. The surveys each will account for 5 points. Both RISC surveys count for 10 points or 10% of the final grade.

**Task 2: Participant Response Survey: 10 points, 10%**
There will be both a course and a fieldtrip participant response survey. Each survey is worth 5 points and can be taken on Blackboard. Both Participant Response Surveys count for 10 points or 10% of the final grade.

**Task 3: Discussion Board: 15%, 150 points**
There will be a required discussion board questions and responses. Discussion board responses are due by 2pm.

**Task 4: Abstract: 20%, 20 points**
An abstract will be submitted online for the Society for Economic Botany Meeting.

**Task 5: Wiki: 15%, 15 points**
Throughout the course you will be working on your own unique contribution to your group’s wiki. This wiki will focus on a particular plant used by the Cherokee in traditional basketry construction or dying. This entry will include the common

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name in both English & Cherokee, the scientific name, and the family. The first
draft of your wiki will include at least 10 different scientific citations on the uses of
the plant and will be worth 5 points. The second draft is worth 10 pts. and will
include all elements of the wiki for peer- and instructor review. The final draft of
the wiki must include photographs and unique information from the fieldtrip. A
sample layout of the wiki will be provided and must be used as a template.

**Task 7: Poster: 20%, 20 points**
In addition to the above wiki on your plant you will produce a Poster within
PowerPoint with your group. The poster will meet the guidelines provided by the
Society for Economic Botany. The poster will include all the information from the
wiki in poster format. Each draft of the poster, 1, 2, are worth 5 points. The final
poster is worth 10 points. The combined poster grade is worth 20 points or 20% of
your grade.

**Attendance and Participation**
Attendance and active involvement in the fieldtrip and online discussions is
expected. Be sure to read all assignments and be prepared to summarize the
material.

**Inclement Weather**
Even if courses and labs are canceled digital assignments are still due. Be prepared
to attend labs outside in rain, snow, and cold.

Question: Do you identify yourself with a specific ethnicity or culture? Email the
instructor with your cultural identity.

**Academic honesty and misbehavior**
The statement on academic dishonesty in the Pathfinder is in effect. Cheating in
any capacity in this course will not be tolerated. If cheating or plagiarism is
encountered, the instructor may administer a grade of zero or an F in the class
depending on the severity of the incident. Students are expected to abide by the
University’s Code of Student Conduct and disruptive behavior in the classroom may
result in an administrative withdraw.

The instructor expects professional behavior during the fieldtrip. Failure to adhere
to University rules, proper etiquette, and professional behavior will result in failure
from the course. There will be no use of alcohol or other drugs during the fieldtrip.
If a student’s behavior is outside of these expectations the student will not be
allowed to ride in the University van back to Frostburg State University. The
student will be financially responsible to provide their own transportation back to
the University from the fieldtrip location.

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Accommodations for students with disabilities
Frostburg State University is committed to providing equal educational opportunities for students with documented disabilities. Students who require disability services or reasonable accommodations must identify themselves as having a disability and provide current diagnostic documentation to Disability Support Services. All information is confidential. Please call 4483 or visit 150 Pullen Hall for more information. If you are unable to participate in hiking during labs you must inform the instructor during the first day of class.
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