BIOLOGY 427
GRADING POLICY

Your grade will be based on lecture exams, a final exam, a lab practical, two term papers and oral (symposium) presentations. I consider the oral presentations as a part of your lab experience. These assignments have the following values in determining your semester grade:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>@%</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4 hour exams</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 term papers</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lab practical exam</td>
<td></td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>oral presentations</td>
<td></td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Criteria for evaluating term papers and oral presentations are dealt with below.

Exams at other than the scheduled times are highly unusual. Talk to me about any insurmountable difficulties. Hour exams will be graded on the following scale: A= 90-100; B= 80-89; C= 70-79; D= 60-69; F= 0-59.

**BIOLOGY 427 ORAL INTENSIVE ASSIGNMENTS**

SYNOPSIS OF A SCIENTIFIC PAPER: 5% OF SEMESTER GRADE

On March 3 or 10, during the laboratory period, you will present a brief (5 minutes) synopsis of a recent (1993 or newer) scientific paper on fish biology (your choice). Simply put, you will describe the study in a way that will be understandable to me and your fellow students. The criteria for your grade are on the attached sheet. Feel free to make overhead transparencies of results, maps or whatever from the paper that will assist you in summarizing the paper for your classmates. A brief question-answer period will follow your presentation. You may use this paper as the basis for one of your term papers if you wish.

SYMPOSIUM ASSIGNMENT: 10% OF SEMESTER GRADE

The last two weeks of laboratory will be devoted to symposia or panel discussions on selected topics relating to fish biology. Each student will prepare a talk for presentation to the class. Each symposium will have a focus and your talk must fit into that focus or topic. Here are some possible topics:

- Effects of Acid Rain on Fish Population
- Arctic/Antarctic Fishes
- Evolution of Species Swarms in African Lakes
- Fish Impacts on Coral Reefs
- Schooling in Fishes
- Symbioses in Fishes

Each topic could be presented by 4 - 6 students; I envision 4 - 6 topics, depending on how you all team up! Your individual talks should be about 10 - 12 minutes long and address a distinct aspect of the overall topic. Some coordination among participants will be necessary. Your talk will be graded; the criteria for the grade are on the accompanying sheet. The intent is for you to not only prepare and deliver a well-organized, informative talk, but (I hope), to explore a new area in fish biology. If, for instance, you have worked for ADF&G for years on salmon and/or prepared salmon talks and papers before, I would strongly recommend you pick a different topic.

You may, however, give your talk on the subject of one of your term papers as long as you conform to the requirements for that assignment (1993 or newer reference) and the topic fits into a symposium topic. You are free to get together and generate your own symposium if you wish. We will line up the topics and the participants for each early in the semester. This may sound like a hideous requirement but it can be one of your most valuable experiences in this course.
This part of the course consists of completing two short papers. These papers should be typed if possible, be a minimum of 5 pages in length and focus on a recent (1993 or newer) paper from the original literature of fish biology. Your paper should deal with an area of fish biology (papers on fishery management are not acceptable; neither are papers on shellfish, jellyfish, starfish...), relying on that recent paper and its bibliography for your discussion. Each of your two papers must cite at least three references. These references must be cited in the text of your paper correctly and must be listed in a “References” or “Literature Cited” section at the end of the paper.

Correct citation in the body of your paper is one of the following:
Pollock growth is a linear function of caloric intake (Smith 1986).
Or:
Smith (1986) says that pollock growth increases with increased food intake.
(If citation has two authors, cite it as: Smith and Paul 1986. If citation has more: Smith et al. 1986).

Correct citation of references in your “Reference” section should be as follows:
Paper from journal -

Book -

Chapter from book -

Some other aspects I will consider in grading your paper include proper spelling, citation of scientific names of species, complete sentences, grammar and appropriateness of the subject. Finally, your completed paper should be stapled to a xerox copy of the recent paper upon which your paper is based. You must schedule a conference with me to go over your paper and rewrite your paper based on my written comments and our conference. You must turn in the rewritten paper, attached to the original version, within one week of our conference. I'll hold firm on the one week deadline (no exceptions).

The first of the two papers is due February 28, 1996. The second paper is due April 3, 1996. Late papers will be downgraded at a rate of one letter grade per each two days, so plan ahead!

I suggest that you browse through the current issues of fish biology journals in the Biomedical Library, Arctic Health Building (see attached list for possibilities). If you have a specific area of interest, I may be able to suggest some appropriate journals. If the expense of xeroxing the original articles is prohibitive, let me know and I can probably arrange something. In any event, do not mutilate the journals! Another possibility is to use Elmernet for a keyword reference search of a topic of interest.