Class website: http://rydberg.biology.colostate.edu/eharp/NR495_Fall_2008.htm
Office: E208 Anatomy/Zoology     Email: eharp – at – lamar.colostate.edu
** email is the best way to communicate with me. I will use email extensively to communicate with you, and expect you will be checking your email on a daily basis. When you email me, please use informative subject lines (i.e., NR 495 <specific subject>) so that your email does not get lost in my inbox.

All people on the field crew should exchange cell phone numbers. For days that you will be going out in the field, I strongly suggest that you have your phone turned on and by your bed before you go to sleep the night before. You should also check your email before you come in – I check the weather when I get up, and will email everybody if the field day is cancelled due to weather. If you do not have email access at your house, please let me know, and I will send a text message instead. If you do not have access to email or a cell phone with text messaging capabilities, please let me know – in that case, you should call me before you leave your house to make sure we are going out. My cell phone number is 970-203-5462.

We will have lab meetings periodically throughout the semester – probably every 2 to 3 weeks. We will determine the days and times at the beginning of the semester so as to accommodate everybody’s class and work schedules, and so that you can make appropriate plans for study groups and social activities in advance. Your attendance is required at all lab meetings. Things we will cover at lab meetings include your papers and presentations, field protocols, and answering any questions you might have.

Grading*:
Please note that there are enough A’s for everybody, and I hope I will be able to give all of you A’s or A+’s, however, that said, you will still need to show, through your work and attitude, that you deserve an A (see grading criteria below). I am quite explicit about what I expect, so you should have no trouble fulfilling the requirements for an A or A+. If you are not prepared and willing to try for an A in this class, I politely suggest that you allow somebody else to have your spot on the field crew.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>97-100%: A+</th>
<th>87-89%: B+</th>
<th>77-79%: C+</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-96%: A</td>
<td>80-86%: B</td>
<td>72-76%: C</td>
<td>70-74 hours: 50%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Paper (Grant Proposal): 15%     Seminars: 10%     Performance in the lab/field: 40%
Presentation (poster or oral): 10%     Attitude: 25%

* All grades are contingent on fulfilling the time commitment (90 hours for the semester).
A base grade will be given based on the criteria above, and then will be multiplied according to hours fulfilled as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>90+ hours: 100%</th>
<th>80-84 hours: 80%</th>
<th>70-74 hours: 50%</th>
<th>&lt; 70 hours: 40%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>85-89 hours: 90%</td>
<td>75-79 hours: 70%</td>
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</table>

Paper (Grant Proposal):
Your paper will be in the format of a proposed research essay for the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship, with the exception that you will use "we" instead of "I" when referring to what will be done and what has already been done. Your paper should be 4 pages, double-spaced, 1" margins, 12 point Times New Roman (or 11 point Calibri if you are using Word 2007). I’m always a bit shocked when people lose points because they didn’t format correctly. Please pay attention to the formatting requirements (coming soon).

Your paper is not meant to be an exam – you are welcome to help each other find references and review drafts of your papers before you hand them in. However, each student must hand in their own paper that is their own original work. Plagiarism in any form will not be tolerated, and will result in an F for the course and referral to the appropriate academic authorities. We will go over what constitutes plagiarism at one of our first lab meetings.

I strongly suggest you purchase EndNote X2 bibliographic software – it will save you a lot of time in putting together your works cited for this and all other papers, and you will likely use it throughout your academic and professional careers. The Software Cellar in the Lory Student Center sells the latest version for about $99, and you can also purchase it online at JourneyEd.com for about the same price. I think you can also purchase an annual license through the Software Cellar for about $50. You can find out more about EndNote at www.EndNote.com. I will provide thorough training in how to use EndNote for those who would like to learn. We have an older version of EndNote installed on the lab computers if you want to take a look at it before you decide whether or not to purchase it.
Additional details about your papers are posted on the web, or will be shortly. We will set aside lab meeting time to answer any questions you have about the paper.

**Paper Due Dates** (note that at each stage you will need to email me pdf’s of your references):
- **October 3, 2008, 8:00am:** Grant Proposal First Submission
- **October 24, 2008, 8:00am:** Grant Proposal Second Submission
- **November 14, 2008, 8:00am:** Grant Proposal Final Submission

**Presentation:**
The presentation can be either a poster or oral (PowerPoint) presentation. You will give a presentation to all of the NR 495 students and mentors during the last week of classes. Oral presentations are 10 minutes long (subject to change).

**Your ability to stay on time will factor into your grade.** Additional details about your presentations are posted on the web, or will be shortly. We will set aside lab meeting time to answer any questions you have about the presentation.

**Presentation Due Dates** (days and times dependent on our lab meeting schedule):
- **Week of October 13: Presentation Draft:** We will run through everybody’s presentations during lab meeting
- **Week of November 3: Practice Presentation 1:** Each person or group will run through their presentations during lab meeting as if it were the final official presentation, and will receive feedback (both positive and critical) from the rest of the group.
- **Week of December 1: Practice Presentation 2:** Each person or group will run through their presentations during lab meeting as if it were the final official presentation, and will receive feedback (both positive and critical) from the rest of the group.
- **Week of December 8: Final Presentation:** Each person or group will deliver their presentation to other NR 495 students and mentors.

**Seminars:**
One of the benefits of attending a large school is access to seminars in many departments across campus. You are required to attend at least five seminars, and turning in a short write-up for each seminar you attend (these are pretty low-key, only about 2 paragraphs each). I will send out announcements periodically about seminars on campus, but sometimes I miss a few – if you see a seminar listed somewhere that you think you might like to attend for credit, just let me know ahead of time, and I will determine if it is appropriate for credit. Criteria for the write-ups are posted on the website listed at the top of the syllabus.

**Due Dates:**
- September 19
- October 3
- October 17
- October 31
- November 14

**Attitude:**
You are all working as part of a team, and a positive, helpful, and cheerful attitude is essential. The importance of this is reflected in the fact that attitude counts for a quarter of your grade. Things that count towards a good attitude assessment include, but are not limited to, demeanor in the lab/field, willingness to help others and ability to accept help, flexibility in your schedule (within reason – you are never expected to miss class to come into the lab, and I don’t encourage it at all), patience (you will need lots of this throughout the semester), and cheerfulness (even at 5:00am or the other end of a long, hot or cold day!).

**Performance evaluation:**
You will all receive thorough training in the techniques you will be using this semester. Research requires much patience and a lot of attention to detail. You will be evaluated on your ability to perform the tasks at hand correctly and efficiently (not to be confused with speed, which is not a part of what you will be evaluated on). Even though there are established protocols for the project(s) you will be working on, if you have an idea about how to improve on a project, please do bring it up! Do not change things without permission, but I do encourage independent thinking about what you are doing and how it might be improved, and look forward to hearing your ideas. You are also expected to understand what you are doing and why – this will be most evident in your papers and presentations, but my assessment of your understanding will also factor into your performance evaluation. If you do not understand an aspect of what you are doing, please ask questions! You are here to learn, and asking questions will NEVER count against you (quite the opposite, actually).