

Instructions and Grading for Oral Presentations

This course is designated as an oral intensive course (O/2) and you are required to give 2 oral presentations. You will accomplish the oral requirements for this class by leading a discussion about a scientific paper that you select and giving a presentation on a topic that you chose. Your presentation must be related to a topic in Waterfowl and Wetland Ecology and Management and the topics for your 2 presentations cannot be the same.

Student Discussion (5% of course grade)

Identify a scientific paper on waterfowl or wetland ecology for the class to read. The paper should come from a referred scientific journal such as *Journal of Wildlife Management*, *Auk*, *Condor*, or *Wildfowl*. Give me a copy of the paper **at least 1 week prior** to your discussion and I will make it available to the class by posting it on the web site.

The class will read the paper prior to lab and be prepared to discuss the topic. Your job is to provide a 5 minute summary of the paper at the start of the discussion. You can use visual aids for this summary such as overheads or you can use the white board to emphasize important parts. At the end of your summary, you should provide direction for the subsequent discussion by posing 2 or 3 questions to the class. You will also be expected to stimulate the discussion during the hour that we consider your paper. You will need to be versed in the topic that we are discussing, so I expect that you will read other material related to the paper that you select. You will be grade based on the following criteria:

- Effectiveness of Summary
 - Thorough
 - Clear
 - Thought Provoking
- Command of Topic
- Ability to Direct and Maintain Discussion

Student Presentations

The student presentations will be present in a setting similar to those that you will experience at a scientific conference. You will have 15 minutes to give your presentation and 5 minutes for questions.

Your presentation will be on a topic of your choosing. I expect that you will do an exhaustive job of researching the topic. For most topics, this will require that you understand the content of 10+ scientific papers.

You will be graded based on your skills at researching your topic and your skills at presenting your findings. I will use the following criteria for grading:

- Knowledge of topic
- Ability to synthesize material
- Organization of the presentation
- Use of visual aid
- Clarity

You will need to use overheads or a computer to make your presentation and I hope you will choose a computer. I can provide a computer for you to use if you send me an electronic copy of your talk (email attachment, public drive on network, or file) prior to your presentation.

Here are a few suggestions for your presentation.

- Plan on presenting about a slide per minute. So, you should have about 15 slides in a 15 minute presentation.
- Include an organizational slide at the beginning of the presentation that is a road map for your talk.
- Provide a summary slide at the end of your talk.
- Do not include too much material on a slide. The audience should be able to quickly read or digest the material on the slide.
- Practice your talk at least twice before your presentation.
- Do not read your talk – this is boring to you and the audience.