

Wednesdays 12:30-1:20 in LSE 101

Dr. Bill Henley, LSE 104, 744-6674; henley@okstate.edu; office hours M/Tu 9-10; W/Th 4-5

**Objectives and Course Format:** This course targets advanced undergraduates considering graduate school, and first year graduate students. It will emphasize highly interactive discussions concerning:

- 1) what graduate degree programs in Botany and related life sciences are all about
- 2) the skills required and responsibilities of graduate students and professional scientists
- 3) the career opportunities and appropriate skills and knowledge required for each career track related to Botany/Plant Science

**Grading:** This is predominantly a participation course, and there are no exams. There will be a few writing assignments, tentatively corresponding to ☆ in the schedule below. In the future it will likely be listed as a pass-fail course; students are encouraged to elect to enroll individually as pass-fail this year – just fill out the P/NP form at the registrar by September 2<sup>nd</sup>. Otherwise, the usual 60/70/80/90% cutoffs for D/C/B/A apply. The grading scheme is as follows:  
Attendance/participation – 30 pts.; writing assignments – 3x10 = 30 points; total = 60 points

**Schedule of Topics** (subject to change) ☆ denotes writing assignment

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Presenter</b>
Aug. 24	Hazard Communication Training (all personnel)	EHS
Aug. 31	Why am I in graduate school? What is expected of me? A community of scholars: scientific curiosity and self-directed learning vs. skills acquisition. What are the roles of my major advisor and committee?	Henley et al.
Sept. 7	Time management 101: take classes, conduct research and TA, and still have a life? TA obligations, teaching "ethics"	Henley et al.
Sept. 14	Developing & "selling" (thesis) research ideas: what constitutes a good thesis/dissertation topic?	Henley et al.
Sept. 21	Locating sources of funding for your research	Henley et al.
Sept. 28	Finding, citing and using scientific literature & databases	Faculty, Librarian
Oct. 5	Research integrity 1: peer-review, confidentiality, plagiarism, data integrity, manuscript authorship guidelines	Henley et al.
Oct. 12	Research integrity 2: grant budgets, purchasing ethics, media influence, academic-corporate collaboration	guest(s)
Oct. 19	Scientific writing 1: journal articles ☆	Henley et al.
Oct. 26	Scientific writing 2: grant proposals ☆	Henley et al.
Nov. 2	Networking (schmoozing) 101: research conferences	Henley et al.
Nov. 9	Careers in academia including postdocs	Henley & guest(s)
Nov. 16	Careers in government agencies	guest(s)
Nov. 23	Careers in nonprofit organizations	guest(s)
Nov. 30	Careers in corporations	guest(s)
Dec. 7	Developing your vita; applying for jobs ☆	Henley et al.