

Botany 780 – Spring, 2005

Student Presentations

Objectives: Student presentations are an important part of a graduate course. They provide an opportunity for the students to focus on the details of a topic specific to their individual interests beyond that covered in a traditional lecture. In addition, the level of understanding required for oral and written presentations is deeper than that acquired by passively attending a lecture. Memory of lecture topics may fade after the exam depending on future exposure, while concepts that are presented by the student are retained much longer. The ultimate goal is that students will select a topic that will be of value to them in their future careers.

Topic Selection: There will be only two restrictions placed on topics. 1) They should be relevant to Botany 780. 2) They shouldn't be duplications of your primary research project. However, topics that are peripheral to your primary research are encouraged. The best topics are those that will benefit you in the future. I don't need to see the title before abstracts are due, although if you are unsure whether a topic is appropriate, I would be glad to share my opinion.

Abstracts: Abstracts are due for all students on **April 20**. Please provide a short summary of your oral presentation, one or two paragraphs in length (try to keep it around half a page). Please provide a copy for each of us (six copies needed). I consider abstracts to be part of your oral presentation and will evaluate abstract / presentation / response to questions as a whole.

Oral Presentation: Presentation days will be the last four class periods of the semester, April 25, April 27, May 2, and May 4. We will be having two presentations within our 75 minute time slot, so please keep presentations between 25 and 30 minutes. This will allow 5 to 10 minutes for questions following each presentation. Please include visual aids, overheads, handouts, slides, powerpoint, whatever you prefer. Please give me advanced warning of your needs so that I can have the equipment ready for you on presentation day.

Grading: Abstracts / presentation / response to questions will be worth 50 points. Grades will be assigned according to the attached rubric.