



Zoology 956
Professional Development Seminar
1 credit

Course Designations & Attributes:
50% Graduate Coursework Requirement

Graduate Student Seminar: Tuesdays 4:35-5:25

Credit Hours:

This class meets one 50-minute class period each week over the fall semester and carries the expectation that students will work on course learning activities (reading, writing, problem sets, studying, etc) for about 2 hours out of the classroom for every class period.

Requisites: Graduate/professional standing

Instructor: Tony Ives
Availability: upon request (arives@wisc.edu)

Course Description:

This seminar is designed to discuss key skills that you will need for a professional career in science. Topics include preparing identifying appropriate jobs, writing job applications, reviewing scientific manuscripts, writing grant proposals, and scientific ethics. A more-complete listing is provided under the course schedule below. Most examples will be from ecology and evolution, although graduate students from all disciplines are welcome.

Learning Outcomes:

Graduate students often express concerns about what they should be doing as graduate students, and how they should prepare for future careers. The job of scientist and educator both outside and inside academics is complex, involving many tasks and specializations. Nonetheless, the basic skills required -- critical thinking, time management, management of others, etc. -- are common skills to a wide range of jobs. The most effective way to learn these skills is by using them, and graduate students should see themselves as apprentices rather than students. This course is designed to talk about skills, to identify skills that graduate students should be thinking about, and to demystify what it means to be a scientist.

Confidentiality:

Topics raised in the seminar can sometimes introduce private or privileged information. I expect all participants to keep this information private.

Grading:

Grading is based on participation. As a graduate seminar, grades are **S** (Satisfactory), **P** (Progress) and **U** (Unsatisfactory).

Work:

Each participant will be required to co-lead two meetings of the seminar on topics selected in advance. I will help organize these presentations.

Rules, Rights, and Responsibilities:

See [Rules, Rights and Responsibilities](#)

Course Content:**Schedule Template**

Date	Topic	Leaders
11 Sep	Introduction	Tony
18 Sep	Academic job applications	Tony
25 Sep	Writing scientific reviews	Tony
2 Oct		
9 Oct		
16 Oct		
23 Oct		
30 Oct		
6 Nov		
13 Nov		
20 Nov		
27 Nov		
4 Dec		
11 Dec		

Additional topics

Success/survival in graduate school

How to be a graduate advisor and advisee
Scientific ethics
Women in science
Academic jobs
Non-academic jobs (government, private, NGOs)
Expectations: CVs, publications, etc.
Personal websites and academic visibility
Teaching
Writing papers and proposals
Writing letters of recommendation, etc.
The two-body problem
Communicating to non-professional audiences
Why do you do science? Creating a mission statement