

Dr. Roy M. Ventullo
Office Hours: by appt.
Phone: x8339/ 352-4354 (h)
e-mail: roy.ventullo

Dr. Joyce Boss
Office Hours: :
Phone: x8223/ 352-2867 (h))
e-mail: joyce.boss

The Neotropical Experience BI 206/LS206
An Interdisciplinary Introduction to Guyana and Trinidad.
Winter Term 2003, Wednesday 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. Room 20 Becker Hall

Schedule for BI 206 Ecology of Guyana (the neotropics)

Week 1: Jan 8

Handouts. Introduction to the Neotropical Experience. Ventullo, Boss and Bouzard will describe interdisciplinary nature of the experience. BI 206/216 and LS 206/216 expectations, grading, etc..... Itinerary. \$ Issues. Guyana Web Page. Watch some videos..... **Set up country project groups.**

Week 2: Jan 15

TR Forward, Preface, Sect. 1-I, **NC** Forward, Preface, Chpt. 1, 2, 3. What is a tropical rainforest? I will discuss generalities. Introduction to Georgetown environs. Videos.

Week 3: Jan 22

TR Sect. 2-I, **NC** Chapt. 10 & 11. The coastal ecosystems, tropical savannas.

Week 4: Jan 29 - 2 Student Presentations - Plant life (Rainforest and savanna) and The Tropical Pharmacy & Ethnobotany. NC Chapt. 7 & 10, Living off the land

Week 5: Feb 5 - Student Presentation – Neotropical animals (forest and savanna)
TR 1-II

Week 6: Feb 12 - Student Presentation – Aquatic life in the rainforest.

Week 7: Feb 19 - Student Presentation – Threats and Protection.
TR Section 3 and 5, Handouts, **NC** Chapt. 14. Instructor/class evaluation.
Hand out take home exam for BI 206. Due on Feb. 26th

Key Information for BI 206

Texts:

[**TR**] *The Tropical Rainforest* by Arnold Newman
[**NC**] *The Neotropical Companion* by John Kricher.

Other readings and web site:

BiologyDept -> May term courses-> Guyana

Attendance at lecture is mandatory. Individual students and/or groups are expected to meet with me to discuss their May term project, topic presentations and/or progress/problems, etc... Late assignments will be penalized 10% per class day.

Grading (100 points)

✍ Topic presentation

Based on instructors evaluation of oral presentation

40 pts

Peer evaluation of oral presentation, based on average evaluation by class

10 pts

Based on quality of written document by me.

40 pts

✍ Take home final exam. *Handed out Feb. 19 - Due Feb. 26th*

40 pts

A collection of short answer and essay questions relating to ecology of Guyana and Trinidad & Tobago.

✍ Evaluation of May term Group Project Proposal

40 pts

This takes into account originality, initiative, planning and other

characteristics which contribute to a well-conducted study. Final product is the Group Project Proposal.

✍ Guyana and TT in the News

20 pts

Just what it sounds like. You should peruse the web, newspapers, Lexis/Nexis whatever and found some interesting new about Guyana and/or TT. Simply send me an email containing: title of the article, source and authors, if any, and 1-3 sentence summary of the story. I will email these to everyone. A fun way to get up to speed on the culture and ecology of the Neotropics.

5 points for each submittal.

✍ Pop take home quizzes

20 pts

I will give you a few questions to find answers to..related to Guyana and TT.

In order to calculate final grade, divide number of points obtained by total 100 points.

GRADE SCALE

Grade	Cutoff (%)	Grade	Cutoff (%)
A	93	C	72
A-	88	C-	68
B+	85	D+	65
B	82	D	62
B-	78	D-	58
C+	75	F	<58

Student Topic Presentation for BI 206 (90 pts.)

- You can work in teams of up to three (3) persons.
- This is a literature project in which you will find information on the topic and produce a 4-5 page (full typed pages, double spaced, 12 point, 1 inch margins, includes at least 10 journal, book and Internet references) overview **and** present a 45-60 min presentation and discussion in class (slides, overheads, videos, discussion questions, debates etc.).
- THE PAPER IS DUE NOON MONDAY PRIOR TO YOUR PRESENTATION. I WILL POST ON THE WEB AND EVERYONE DOWNLOAD A COPY AND READ PRIOR TO CLASS WEDNESDAY.
- Class participation in discussions is expected and the class will be responsible for information in the review and presentation.
- Grading: Grading of the presentation will be based on the mean of student evaluations (5%) and instructor evaluations (30%). All students in the group will get the same grade and participation by all individuals is expected.

GUIDELINES FOR MAY TERM GROUP PROJECT PROPOSAL

Grading: All members will get the same grade. .
Group size: 5 people.
Length: ~3 pages (12 point font full typed pages, double spaced, one inch margins, references).

Draft due date: {Feb 5}. You **DO NOT** need to wait until date to hand in proposal draft. The sooner the better. **Final due date:**{ Feb 26}.

Instructions to authors: Each proposal should contain the following 3 sections.

- I. Statement of the problem and significance: Succinctly state the problem and in context of readings and information you obtain, defend your project (why is this important), include references
- II. Objectives: State the objective(s). A few bullet points will do.
- III. Methodology: [Longest part] What kind of data are you going to collect data? How?
How will you report the data you collect?

Some Topics for Research

I am not expecting a major research effort here but a good solid study you can do in the “bush”. Since we are going to be “in the bush” it seems only right that we examine the environs around us. I encourage you to brainstorm on these topics you might be interested in researching. Much of this will be done at Iwokrama site and in Surama Village and possibly in TT. You can enlist help from guides and local folks for some of these studies. Each group will be the “experts” and the rest of us can/will help out.

Flying insects – attracting, trapping, counting types, digital photos?
Soil insects - attracting, trapping, counting types, digital photos?
Comparative ecology of insects

Grading Information for BI 216

The May term BI 216 course is graded pass/fail. The requirements for a pass: Follow the rules for the trip, complete and report your team project to the best of your ability, be sure your leaders do not get bitten by piranha, AND be engaged, ready to learn and have fun.

