

SYLLABUS - GEOGRAPHY 941 - CLIMATOLOGY SEMINAR

Topic: Phenology and Climate Change

Spring 2015

Time: Wednesdays, 5:00-7:40 p.m. Room: BOL 487

Instructor: Prof. Mark D. Schwartz

Office: BOL 490 -- messages may be left in BOL 410 (Geog. Dept.)

Office Phone: 229-3740 Messages: 229-4866 (Geog. Dept.)

Office Hours: by appointment only

Class Reflector: geog-941@uwm.edu

Textbook: Schwartz, M.D. (Ed.), 2013, *Phenology: An Integrative Environmental Science*, 2nd edition, Springer, Netherlands **(the instructor will provide students with digital copies for use during the semester).**

Readings: Additional readings may be assigned during the semester

Phenology is the study of plant and animal life cycle events, which are triggered by environmental changes, especially temperature. Wide ranges of phenomena are included, from first openings of leaf and flower buds, to insect hatchings and return of birds. Each one gives a ready measure of the environment as viewed by the associated organism. Thus, phenological events are ideal indicators of the impact of local and global changes in weather and climate on the earth's biosphere. Assessing our changing world is a complex task that requires close cooperation from experts in biology, climatology, ecology, geography, oceanography, remote sensing, and other areas. This seminar will examine current phenological knowledge, covering data collection, current research, methods, applications, and the accomplishments and potential of phenology as an integrative environmental science.

The seminar will start with a discussion of the general areas of phenological research. As time allows, students will have input into the determination of which sub-topics will be covered in more detail. Students will choose an area of interest, gather and present abstracts of articles in this area, and then prepare and present a final seminar paper on the topic.

COURSE POLICIES

1. Evaluation: Grades will be assigned on the basis of total points accumulated from general preparation and participation (30 points), abstracts and their presentation (50 points), and the seminar paper and presentation (120 points), for a total of 200 points. The percentages necessary to receive certain grades will be no higher than the following:

88%--(A-)

78%--(B-)

2. Notices: Grades, once given are final except in cases of clerical error. It is the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor when a course requirement will be missed. If you need special accommodations in order to meet any of the requirements of this course, please contact me as soon as possible. Do your own work...plagiarism and cheating are unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Additional information regarding the policies and procedures applicable to this course are available on-line (<https://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/faculty/1895B.pdf>), please direct and questions to the instructor or staff in the Geography Dept. main office, BOL410.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Jan. 28-W-Introduction and procedures
Feb. 4-W-Chapters 1-7
11-W-Chapters 8-12
18-W-Chapters 13-17
25-W-Chapters 18-22
Mar. 4-W-Chapters 23-26
11-W-Chapters 27-31
18-W-Spring Break (no class meeting)
25-W-Selected topic
Apr. 1-W-Selected topic
8-W-Selected topic
15-W-Abstract presentations
22-W-Abstract presentations
29-W-Paper presentations
May 6-W-Paper presentations
15-FRIDAY-Seminar Paper due by 5:00 p.m.