

## BIO 597D: Plant Systematics and Evolution Public Service Announcement Group Project Spring Semester 2014

The final goal for this assignment is the development of a 5 minute video addressing a key concept integral to the field of plant systematics. Think of this a public service announcement educating a lay public about your point of interest. "Videos" may be scripted or candid, fictionalizations, live video or animation or any combination of these, but must communicate scientific ideas and the key elements of your topic in a manner that the general public can understand. You are free to propose a topic of interest but some key topics to choose from are listed below:

- Why is botany an important subject to include in a biology curriculum? Who needs to know about plants and why?
- What is biodiversity and why is it so important?
- What are herbaria? What can an herbarium do for me?
- What are natural history collections? Why are they important resources for scientists worldwide?
- Why are we digitizing biological collections? What is this a valuable endeavor for the scientific community?
- How is the discipline of systematics used to inform conservation and management of natural resources?

*So what do you need to do?*

### Group Assignment #1 – Group Formed and Topic Selected **DUE Thursday, 16 January 2014**

This is a "Group Project". This means I expect to see good collaborative groups working together to provide an interesting, entertaining, scientifically relevant presentation. I expect everyone to "pull their own weight" and contribute. Good group work should benefit everyone in the group and create a *better* final project. Groups of four will be assigned by the instructor and topics mutually selected (must have this confirmed by Dr. Monfils) by the end of class on January 16<sup>th</sup>.

### Group Assignment #2- Concept Paper **DUE Tuesday, 18 February 2014**

For this portion of the assignment, you and your group will need to write a concept paper describing key concepts and citing relevant literature on your subject. This paper only needs to be 2 to 3 pages, 10 or 12 point font, double-spaced and one inch margins. Prior to writing your group concept paper, your group needs to research your idea and find reliable sources of information. Please cite the sources of your information appropriately and include a "Works Cited" section (this is in addition to your 2 to 3 page paper). I expect a *minimum* of five primary literature resources. Peer review for Group Assignment #2 is due with the Concept Paper. Each student must submit peer reviews for their team members to receive individual credit for peer reviews.

### Group Assignment #3 – Storyboard **DUE Tuesday, 1 April 2014**

For this portion of the assignment, you and your group will need to provide a storyboard that outlines your 5 minute video. From Wikipedia "Storyboards are graphic organizers such as a series of illustrations or images displayed in sequence for the purpose of pre-visualizing a motion picture, animation, motion graphic or interactive media sequence, including website interactivity." Please include all your major "scenes" and content. (The length of your storyboard will depend on your content.) Peer review for Group Assignment #3 is due with the presentation of the Storyboard. Each

student must submit peer reviews for their team members to receive individual credit for peer reviews.

**Final Group Assignment – Video DUE Tuesday, 29 April 2014**

Your group video will need to be presented in class using the technology available in the classroom. Digital format is probably most appropriate. Students have had a lot of success loading their videos on YouTube. Feel free to ask to see the equipment or even “trial run” your technology prior to the due date. These are due and will be presented the last day of class. Peer review for Final Group Assignment is due with the presentation of the Video. Each student must submit peer reviews for their team members to receive individual credit for peer reviews. Students must be present for all videos, and provide a review of all class videos, to receive credit for Class Peer Review points.

**Grading for the Project - 60 Total Points (10% of Course Grade)**

Group Assignment #1 = 2 points

Group Assignment #2 = 12points

Group Assignment #3 = 12 points

Final Group Assignment = 24 points

Within Group Peer Review = 7 points (divided as 2 points each for Assignment #2, #3 and 3 points for the Final Group Assignment)

Class Peer Review = 3 points