Format

I used a lecture format; the grades were based on 2 essay-style exams, 1 ten-page topic paper, and a book report. The latter required the students to read 20-100 pages in a primary source, such as Aristotle, Theophrastus, Vesalius, etc., and write a 2 page synopsis/critique. This is especially important—even in English translation the flavor of these ancient works breaks through, and the students get a very different taste than they get from the chronicles of the textbook.

Results

This fall, nine students enrolled; their majors were: Biology (2), Chemistry (1), History (2), English (2), and 2 underclassmen. The course seemed to proceed well, and some students reported greater appreciation and enthusiasm for biology at the end of the course. I did use some slides and transparencies during the lectures, and I intend to expand this next time because settings are very important for history courses. One problem is the lack of significant contributions by women before the twentieth century. Even the textbook author, a woman, had few examples. I intend to continue the course, although some adjustments such as alternate year offerings may be warranted.

Assessment and Conclusions

I personally feel that the course was successful—I learned much more teaching this class than when I took it as a graduate student. Furthermore, the course attracted some biology majors, but also raised the biological consciousness of some non-majors. (Not everyone received that easy A, either.) Finally, my colleagues are interested in the course—our microbiologist gave a guest lecture on his discipline when I had to be out of town.

If you are interested in developing such a course at your institution, I think that it can readily be done. Please write to me if you would like to see my syllabus, bibliography, titles of student papers, or other information.

References


POSTER SESSIONS AT THE 29TH ANNUAL AMCGBT MEETINGS
Jerry Foote, U.W. Eau Claire

A first for AMCGBT happened at the 29th annual meeting at Augustana in Rock Island
on September 27-28, 1985. This new occurrence was the POSTER SESSION. Suggested by Harold Wilkinson at our planning meeting in December 1984 and carefully organized by Harold, as was the entire program, the first poster session was a success with eight very interesting posters.

Because not all members could get to the meeting, I will briefly describe each of the posters and list addresses for anyone wishing further information about any of these topics.

Millikin University was well represented with posters by Neil Baird, Tom McQuistion & Patti Dingman, and Harold Wilkinson. All can be contacted at the Biology Department, Millikin University, Decatur, IL 62522.

Neil's Poster was entitled A Simple Microcomputer Analysis of Simulated Research Data. It described an exercise in which the students learn a bit of BASIC so they can understand a statistics program. They then use this statistics program to test significance between an experimental and a control group in a simulated research project. If you wish to have your students gain a better understanding of statistics and its use in biology experimentation, contact Neil Baird for further information.

Drug Efficacy to Coccidial Parasites of Ring-Necked Pheasants was the title of the poster by Tom and Patti. Sulfadiazin, amprolium and furazolidone were tested for their coccidiocidal or coccidiostatic action against four species isolated from pheasants. All three drugs caused a reduction of oocyst discharge in the pheasants compared to the controls indicating some coccidiocidal activity by each of the drugs. All you parasitologists, contact Tom McQuistion for further information.

Freeze Drying of Biological Tissue Using a Closed Chamber Containing Phosphorus Pentoxide was the poster of Harold Wilkinson. This poster described a method for freeze drying small samples in any freezer without the continuous use of a conventional pump or a condensor unit. Using test tubes in a wire basket and phosphorus pentoxide to absorb the tissue water, one gram of tissue will lose 75% of its water in 4 hours at -20 degrees C. If you need a simple method to freeze dry one or many small samples, write to Harold.

Bill Andresen of Harper College showed us How to Learn Your Students' Names Quickly and Easily. His technique consists of taking instant type photos of small groups of students in the laboratory and writing their names on the pictures. Carrying the pictures with you and studying them during those odd moments of few minutes duration will do the job and you will know the names of your students quickly with no strain. Bill can be contacted at Harper College, Palatine, IL 60067.

If you are looking for an interesting, easy to raise insect for any of a variety of experiments, Ingemar Larson has the answer. Rearing of the Blaberus Cockroach and its use as an Experimental Animal was the title of his poster. Ingemar emphasized that this cockroach "does not stink" and is really a good experimental animal. Raising these insects in an old aquarium built up with thin layers of plywood and feeding them dry puppy chow, makes this a very inexpensive animal to have around. Putting petroleum jelly around the top of the aquarium will keep the cockroaches from wandering away, Ingemar says. What made this poster unique was having the actual colony of cockroaches present for all to see. We could observe that indeed there was no bad odor emanating from the colony and the raising of these insects was very simple and easy. For further information, write to Ingemar Larson, Biology Department, Augustana College, Rock Island, IL 61202.
Harold Hansen had another 3D poster entitled *Stomate Model*. He demonstrated a unique way to cut up and glue balloons to simulate a working stomate. Having the actual balloons hanging on the poster, showing the step by step procedure for constructing these guard cells which operate the stomate, made for a clear, concise, demonstration type poster. Now if he can figure out a way to insert chloroplasts into those balloons........ Contact Harold at Biology Department, St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN 55057 for full details!

Pat Guilfoile, a teacher at Greenwood High School, and former graduate student at U.W. Eau Claire, presented another unique poster, *Magnetotactic Bacteria: A videotape produced at U.W. Eau Claire*. After collecting, culturing, and playing around with magnetotactic bacteria for some time as a graduate student, Pat got together with the UWEC Media Development Center and produced a 13 minute videotape. His poster was a showing of the videotape in which he explains how to collect, culture, and look at these fascinating bacteria. In the tape, one can see the bacteria swimming rapidly toward and away from a magnet depending on which pole, Pat presents to them. Another interesting phenomenon is seen as "strings" of dead bacteria show a rotational movement in response to the magnetic field. If you would like to purchase a copy of this videotape, write to Pat Guilfoile, Greenwood High School, Greenwood, WI 54437. For more information, Pat also has an article in the May 1985 issue of *The American Biology Teacher*.

Jerry Foote's *Thin Layer Chromatography of Chlorophyll Pigments* concluded the posters. An easy method to separate chlorophyll pigments using thin layer chromatography with a mixture of petroleum ether and acetone as the solvent was described. The beauty of this method lies in the fact that the entire process can be completed while the paper chromatographs of chlorophyll are running up the paper. Also, the same solvent chemicals are used in both processes. Thus, your students can experience two types of chromatographic separation using no more laboratory time than is currently used. This was another 3D poster since Jerry had the materials present so that everyone could experience the process and make his/her own separation! For further information see the April 1984 issue of *The American Biology Teacher* or contact Jerry at Biology Department, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, Eau Claire, WI 54701.

Get ready for next year's meeting at Sangamon State by preparing a poster on one of your favorite topics. They take a bit of work, but are really fun to do and give you some time to talk with others while also demonstrating your ideas to them!

REFERENCES:


**THE SCIENCE HONORS SEMINAR COURSE AT MILLIKIN UNIVERSITY**

Neil M. Baird, Department of Biology, Millikin University, Decatur, IL

The science honors seminar course at Millikin University is part of the James Millikin scholars program which was established in 1974. Students are selected for