COURSE CONTENT- Explores the co-evolutionary relationships of plants and animals. Lectures and research topics will emphasize on herbivory, with other topics plant-animal and plant pathogen interactions will be included. Lab emphasis true research that is ongoing in my lab. This will not be a cook book lab, so result are not clearly known and the results may lead to research that is published. The lab experiments will utilizes chemical, behavioral and molecular ecology techniques and review of the scientific literature.

Prerequisites: Biol. 102 and 103 or relative equivalent; junior or senior standing in Biology or a related major or consent of instructor.

Class meets from 5:30 to 9:30 and some outside time is required.

Assigned outside reading

Course Objectives: 1) Develop a better appreciation herbivory and of the scientific method through reading and discussion of the primary literature, observations and experimentation in the laboratory and/or field. 2) Form an understanding of the interactions between plants and animals from the perspective of natural history, theory, and experimental study. 3) Develop an appreciation of the ecological and evolutionary importance of these plant and animal interactions at various levels of biological organization. 4) Improve skills in the dissemination of scientific information through written reports, web-based media and oral presentations. 5) Develop a greater competency in lab techniques.

Assessment- In order to determine whether this course is meeting its above-stated objectives, a variety of classroom assessment techniques will be used. These may include, but are not limited to, short answers regarding your comprehension of the material presented in class, group or individual oral reports, discussions, brainstorming, demonstrations of laboratory technique, and group or individual written reports. Exams will consist of any combination of in-class written exams, take-home exams and oral exams. I will also use assessment techniques to determine whether your skills have improved through written communication. All information in the text book and material from every class can be included on the exams.
Student requirements:

**Lecture/Lab Attendance** (1 free night is excused, after that points are loss regardless of documentation
(Based on the percentage of attendance).............................................. 50 points

**2 Exams** (late exam will be tougher).............................................. 200 points

**Presentation on a Plant/Animal Interaction Paper of Interest** .......................... 25 points

*Required reading/ in class summaries* ............................................. 100 points

**Research Paper** ........................................................................ 100 points

**Group Research Poster** ................................................................ 100 points

**Group research presentation** .......................................................... 100 points

*You can drop your lowest grade and use as extra credit. The summaries are done during class and are closed book. If you do not complete the assignment it will be done on the next class meeting and you will receive only a maximum of 50% for that summary. After that the assignment will not be available.

**Note-** When available or agreed upon extra credit can be attained at 1 point per hour, after obtaining 20 points extra credit, then the student can only attained a 0.5 point per hour if available. Extra credit could be research, prepping, cleaning lab or misc…

Total ........................................................................................................... ~675 points

*exams can come from any material, videos, readings, and lab experiences

**Group research presentation is Final, must be able to answer questions on presentation too.

Lab will consist of a research experiences based on my current research and your interest project ideas, a 2 to 4 person group will be more responsible for the poster and presentation. I will consider an outside projects in lieu of my research projects, but you will still need to participate in planned lab experiences (see me if you have ideas for an independent project).

Graduate Student requirements: Higher grade range required

**Grades-** Undergraduate student grades are calculated on a semi standard scale based on the percentage points you received in relation to total points possible (above) (A=93-100%; A-=89-92%; B+=85-88%; B=81-84%; B-=78-80%; C+=75-77%; C=71-74%; C-=68-70%; D+=65-67%; D=62-64%; D-=55-61%; F= <55%), I am more lenient in giving C’s and D’s, you have to work for a grade of an A, B, or F in my course. Graduate student grades are also calculated on a semi standard scale (A=93-100%; B=80-92%; C=65-79%; D=55-64%; F= <55%) The student is expected to adhere to final day dateline for withdrawal and drop/add - check with Western Illinois University registrar’s office for these dates. You must have a documented outstanding reason to receive an Incomplete in this course.
Attendance and Academic Honesty- You are expected to attend class on time and stay for the entire class period. If you miss class due to health or emergency reason you need to provide documentation. You are expected to do your own work, be honest, and not be disruptive or disrespectful of others and actively participate in class. Breach of the Scholastic Code (e.g. cheating and plagiarism) will be dealt with severely following the direction of the University and the instructor’s discretion.

OBTAINING REFERENCES- To obtain a basic reference letter from me you need a grade of a “B” or better in at least one class I taught. Solid reference letters require that you have taken my upper level class with grade of an “A”. Outstanding reference letters require that you have taken multiple upper level classes of mine with grades of an “A” and/or I had significant interactions with you that went beyond the classroom, such as a research project.

Academic Accommodations- In keeping with state regulations for laboratory safety you must wear approved safety goggles when it is called for in your laboratory (we will provide these), you must keep the lab space free of food and drinks, and you must dispose of all sharp instruments, glassware and chemicals in the prescribed manner. Only registered students are allowed to attend classes. Western Illinois University strives to comply with the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Students with disabilities requiring special accommodations must notify the instructor with documentation of this need or directly contact the Campus Disability Support Services at 298-2512 for additional services. It is imperative that you take the initiative to bring such needs to the instructor’s attention, as the instructor is not legally permitted to inquire about such particular needs of students.

It is the student’s responsibility to be familiar with the information (including required forms, definitions, and time lines) contained in the following university web sites. Each student should access these web sites and carefully read the information they contain, your instructors will hold you responsible for knowing this information. If you have questions about any of the information contained in the web sites, ask your instructor:

Students Rights and Responsibilities:  http://www.wiu.edu/provost/student/

University Final Exam Policy:  
http://www.wiu.edu/user/mivpas/handbook/policies/finexam.shtml

Academic Dishonesty Policy:  
http://www.wiu.edu/VPAS/handbook/policy/acdishst.shtml


Blackboard (need ECOM username and password for entry):  
http://blackboard.cait.org/?bbatt=Y