INTRODUCTION TO SENIOR SEMINAR

FALL 2020
DR. PRYOR

Greetings!

I am Dr. Greg Pryor, Professor of Biology at Francis Marion University

What is the Class About?

This class is designed to help you prepare for life after graduation.

You will be exposed to job opportunities available to you, with a bachelor’s degree in Biology.

You will also learn about further educational requirements that are required for more advanced biology-related careers.

Perhaps most importantly, you will learn how to write a résumé and a cover letter, and how to prepare for interviews.

Grading

This class is straightforward and has only 3 requirements:

- submit a résumé (instructions will be provided)
- submit a cover letter (instructions will be provided)
- complete the Biology Exit Exam (no studying required)

My Story

- Like many of you, I come from a rural area and am the first and only person in my family to go to college
- First, I earned a bachelor's degree in Biology, but had no future plans
- After graduation, I worked various jobs, including a gas station cashier, an animal handler at a vet clinic, and a seasonal employee for The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
- After 3 years, I went back to graduate school so that I could be permanently employed for TNC

- In graduate school, I decided not to go back to work for TNC. I studied animals in several zoos, from New York to Florida, and was tempted to work for a zoo

- However, after getting experience as a teaching assistant, I decided to be a professor

- After earning a Master's Degree and a Ph.D. in zoology, I applied for jobs as a professor…

And here I am!

I love my job and my life.

Your career path is just starting, and in a few years, you'll look back and be amazed at how far you've come…

My Point Is:

- When I was in your position, I had no idea that someday I would be a professor
- You will likely work several jobs and consider multiple options before you decide on a career
- And that’s perfectly normal, and OK!

The Bottom Line

- Whether you know *exactly* what you want to do with your life, or have no plans whatsoever, this course will help you learn about careers in Biology, and how to achieve your career goals

The Bottom Line

- You should focus on a career that satisfies both your financial needs, and your personal satisfaction

- From doctors to veterinarians, and from government employees to various technicians, there are plenty of great jobs in Biology waiting for you!