

**UCOL 1000: University Colloquium  
Seattle Pacific University  
Autumn Quarter, 2016**

**Instructor:** Jenny Tenlen, Ph.D.

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**Office hours:**

M, W, F 10:30 am - 12:00 pm, or by appointment,  
or feel free to drop in any time my door is open.

**Seminar:** Wed., 9:30 am - 10:20 am

**Room:** Otto Miller 126

*“Seattle Pacific University seeks to change the world and engage the culture by graduating students of competence and character, cultivating people of wisdom, and modeling a grace-filled community.”  
[SPU Mission Statement]*

### **Course Description**

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This course introduces first-year college students to learning in an academic community in a weekly discussion-based seminar. This seminar will explore how animals survive in extreme conditions and consider the adaptations that allow animals to occupy diverse habitats (even those considered inhabitable).

We will also discuss strategies for planning coursework, researching majors and minors, and other skills to promote college success.

A guiding principle of this seminar is framed in this quotation: *“Good questions outrank easy answers.”* (Paul Samuelson, as quoted by Ken Bains, p. 21) The study of a topic, whether in Biology, Business, Psychology or other disciplines, is not limited to, nor defined by, the memorization of facts and principles. Rather, in-depth learning relies on the ability to ask questions, and identify strategies for addressing those questions. In this seminar, as you read and discuss papers about animals in extreme conditions, I will ask you to identify and consider questions that clarify and probe a topic. How is this animal able to live in this environment? How do we *know* they have adapted? What data do we need to collect to learn more about this adaptation?

The course is structured around key environmental challenges. Before each class, students will read selected articles from the scientific literature, and answer questions to help prepare for class discussions. In-class discussions and activities will be designed to further develop students' understanding of the literature.

### **Textbooks and other materials**

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No textbooks are required for this course. Weekly reading assignments will be posted on the course's Canvas site.

## Course Learning Objectives

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Learning objectives for this course can be divided into conceptual and skill-based:

Conceptual objectives: By the end of the seminar, students will be able to....

- identify challenges posed by specific environments.
- describe adaptations that allow animals to survive in extreme conditions.
- discuss trade-offs that arise from these adaptations.
- describe possible approaches to studying mechanisms that enable these adaptations.

Skill-based objectives: By the end of the seminar, students will have experience in....

- reading and analyzing scientific literature.
- formulating testable questions and hypotheses.
- identifying strategies and resources to probe a topic.

## Syllabus

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(tentative - any changes will be announced in class, and posted on Canvas). All homework assignments will be posted on Blackboard the week before they are due.

Date	Topic
Fri., Sept. 23, 2016	(first meeting - orientation week) Introductions and activity
Wed., Sept. 28, 2016	Extreme temperature ( <i>Frozen....</i> ) <b>Due: Reading Assignment 1</b>
Wed., Oct. 5, 2016	Extreme temperature ( <i>Can you take the heat?</i> ) <b>Due: Reading Assignment 2</b>
Wed., Oct. 12, 2016	Extreme pressure ( <i>Air's getting a bit thin up here....</i> ) <b>Due: Reading Assignment 3</b>
Wed., Oct. 19, 2016	Extreme pressure ( <i>20,000 Leagues Under The Sea....</i> ) <b>Due: Reading Assignment 4</b>
Wed., Oct. 26, 2016	Day of Common Learning <b>10:00 am:</b> Keynote speaker, Royal Brougham <b>1:00 pm - 3:00 pm:</b> Workshops
Wed., Nov. 2, 2016	Beyond extreme: Outer Space ( <i>To boldly go where no animal has gone before....</i> ) <b>Due: Day of Common Learning reflection assignment</b>
Wed., Nov. 9, 2016	Beyond extreme: Outer Space, part 2 <b>Due: Reading Assignment 5</b>
Wed., Nov. 16, 2016	(final class) Project presentations

## Grading

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Category	Points Possible
Weekly assignments	75
Final project	25
Participation in class activities	50
<b>total</b>	<b>150</b>

(Point values may be altered during the course of the class depending on available time and other course constraints.)

UCOL 1000 is graded on a P / NC (Pass / No Credit) scale. **In order to pass this course, you must earn a grade of C or better. To earn a C, you must score a minimum of 73% (109.5 out of 150 pts).**

## Course Policies

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**Academic integrity:** The Undergraduate Catalog contains the University policy and commitment to academic integrity (<http://spu.edu/catalog/undergraduate/20167/academic-policies-procedures/integrity>). Academic dishonesty of any kind is a breach of this policy. Cheating on reading assignments, the final project, and any other assignment for this course is NOT tolerated. Copying answers from a fellow student and turning in someone else's work as your own are examples of academic dishonesty. Plagiarism is copying portions of or complete works by another person without giving them appropriate acknowledgment. If you are not sure whether you are in danger of plagiarism ASK before you turn in your assignments. Once they have been turned in you are responsible for the consequences. The first offense will result in a failing grade for the assignment or exam. Any second offense will result in failing the course.

**Seminar Attendance:** I expect you to attend all scheduled sessions. There will be discussions, special assignments, and other activities during the class period that cannot be made up. If you plan to be absent due to a university-sanctioned event (e.g., music performance or athletic competition), please alert Dr. Tenlen in advance. If you are unable to attend class due to a severe illness or other emergency, you must notify Dr. Tenlen *before* class if possible. If you miss a graded class activity for an *unexcused* absence, you will not be able to make it up. If you miss a graded class activity for an *excused* absence, you may be asked to do a makeup assignment, at Dr. Tenlen's discretion. Excessive absences will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

**Course citizenship:** This course depends on participation. You are expected to respect the learning of others at all times by avoiding the following behaviors:

- a. Arriving obtrusively late
- b. Conversations or whispering while others are talking
- c. Cell phones ringing
- d. Text messaging/App-playing
- e. Frequent bathroom breaks
- f. Reading newspapers

As a good rule of thumb, consider that you will be expected to behave professionally on the job once you graduate, and such behavior should become a regular habit starting now. This can be reflected in the final evaluation that is your grade. If you behave unprofessionally, you may be “fired” for the day, that is, required to leave the classroom.

**Cell phones** must be turned off and put away during class. Laptops and tablets are permitted as long as they are used for course-related activities (such as taking notes or displaying a copy of the reading assignment). Excessive off-task use of these devices will result in loss of participation points for that day. Dr. Tenlen reserves the right to disallow use of these devices in class if they detract from student learning and participation.

**Course materials:** All course materials (worksheets, answer keys, lab protocols) are posted on Canvas, through the **Modules** link. (You can access Canvas from mySPU on the SPU website.) All assignments will be posted to Canvas at least a week before the due date.

**Late assignments:** One aspect of professionalism is keeping track of deadlines and due dates. Thus, I expect students to turn in assignments on time as directed. While I will accept late submission of reading assignments 10% of the possible points will be deducted for each calendar date it is late. Please note that *points may be subtracted for sloppy or illegible work*.

**Academic appeals:** If you have questions or concerns about how an assignment was graded, or other issues related to enforcement of course policies, I **strongly** encourage you to schedule a time to meet with me to discuss your concerns. I do my very best to listen to, and work with students to promote a fair and equitable class environment. However, if you have a complaint that cannot be resolved and you wish to pursue the matter further, please follow the process outlined in the Academic Appeals section of the Undergraduate Catalog:

<http://spu.edu/catalog/undergraduate/20167/academic-policies-procedures/appeals>

**Disabilities statement:** All students have the right to learn, and I care very deeply that students feel supported and engaged in class. In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, students with specific disabilities that qualify for academic accommodations are strongly encouraged to contact Disabled Student Services (DSS) in the Center for Learning (<http://www.spu.edu/depts/cfl/dss/index.asp>). DSS in turn will send a Disability Verification Letter to the course instructor indicating what accommodations have been approved.

**Inclement weather:** The University maintains an Emergency Closure Hotline (206-281-2800). In the event of inclement weather or an emergency that might close the university, please call the Hotline for the most up-to-date closure information or check the SPU website. Both will be updated before 6:00 a.m. In the event that class is cancelled unexpectedly, please check the course Canvas site for makeup information.

**Emergencies:** If there is an emergency during class that requires evacuation, please meet as a group in the Otto Miller parking lot. Please do not leave this area, as Dr. Tenlen needs to account for all students immediately following the evacuation. If possible, pair up with your nearest neighbor in an emergency and keep track of each other until the situation has been resolved. If there is a lockdown, please stay in the classroom and follow Dr. Tenlen’s directions. Additional information about emergency procedures is provided on the next page.

## Emergency Preparedness Information

### Report an Emergency or Suspicious Activity

Call the Office of Safety and Security to report an emergency or suspicious activity by dialing 206-281-2911 or by pressing the call button on a campus emergency phone. SPU Security Officers are trained first responders and will be dispatched to your location. If needed, the SPU Dispatcher will contact local fire/police with the exact address of the location of the emergency.

### SPU-Alert System

The SPU-Alert System is SPU's emergency notification system. It can send information via text message, email, electronic reader board, computer pop-ups (for SPU computers), loudspeaker, and recorded cell phone messages. Text messaging has generally proven to be the quickest way to receive an alert about a campus emergency. In order to receive text messages from SPU-Alert, you must provide SPU with your cell phone number through the Banner Information System on the web, <https://www.spu.edu/banweb/>. Select the Personal Menu then choose the Emergency Alert System tab. Contact the CIS Help Desk if you have questions about entering your personal contact information into the Banner Information System. Emergency announcements may also be made by SPU staff members serving as Building Emergency Coordinators ("BECs").

### Lockdown / Shelter in Place – General Guidance

The University will lock down in response to threats of violence such as a bank robbery or armed intruder on campus. You can assume that all remaining classes and events will be temporarily suspended until the incident is over. Lockdown notifications are sent using the SPU-Alert System.

#### If you are in a building at the time of a lockdown:

- Stay inside and await instruction, unless you are in immediate visible danger.
- Move to a securable area (such as an office or classroom) and lock the doors.
- Close the window coverings then move away from the windows and get low on the floor.
- Remain in your secure area until further direction or the all clear is given (this notification will be sent via the SPU-Alert System).

#### If you are outside at the time of a lockdown:

- Leave the area and seek safe shelter off campus. Remaining in the area of the threat may expose you to danger.
- Return to campus after the all clear is given (this notification will be sent via the SPU-Alert System).

### Evacuation – General Guidance

Students should evacuate a building if the fire alarm sounds or if a faculty member, a staff member, or the SPU-Alert System instructs building occupants to evacuate. In the event of an evacuation, gather your personal belongings quickly and proceed to the nearest exit. Most classrooms contain a wall plaque or poster on or next to the classroom door showing the evacuation route and the assembly site for the building. Do not use the elevator.

Once you have evacuated the building, proceed to the nearest evacuation assembly location. The "Stop. Think. Act." booklet posted in each classroom contains a list of assembly sites for each building. Check in with your instructor or a BEC (they will be easily recognizable by their bright orange vests). During emergencies, give each BEC your full cooperation whenever they issue directions.

### Additional Information

Additional information about emergency preparedness can be found on the SPU web page at <http://www.spu.edu/info/emergency/index.asp> or by calling the Office of Safety and Security at 206-281-2922.