

Guidelines and grading criteria for oral presentations

BIOL 488: Arctic Vegetation Ecology: Geobotany

Basic guidelines:

1. 15 minutes + 5 minutes for discussion
2. 200 points
3. Literature research paper on topic of interest related to Arctic vegetation ecology.
4. Can be related to thesis research but should not be an outline of your thesis.
5. The intent is to explore the literature. I can probably help you get started if you are having a hard time defining a topic or finding relevant papers.
6. The paper could be a review of 2-3 related recent papers on topics covered in class, or in areas that we have not discussed.
7. Topics for wildlife folks may include animal-plant interactions, discussions of habitat, forage species, use of plants at different times of year (phenology) for forage, nesting, shelter, nutrition, etc. Think broadly and also consider other geobotanical aspects, such as relevance of geology, soils, slope aspect, interactions with other animals using the same habitat.
8. Plant folks should also think broadly to include geobotanical aspects of plants and vegetation. Phyto-geographical questions related to the origins of floras, genetic patterns, spatial distribution models, etc. are just some of the possible directions.
9. Reviews of past and ongoing vegetation research in the Arctic are also welcome.

Sections of the talk:

1. Title slide: Title, author, affiliation, course, date
2. Preview of Contents
3. Introduction and background
4. Several headings that help organize the talk in a logical flow
5. Conclusions
6. Summary
7. Acknowledgments
8. Literature cited

Grade sheet for Oral Presentations, BIOL 488

Title:

Presenter:

Date:

General comments:

Content (___/150 points)

Accurate representation of the topic? (___/25 points)

Was the *relevance* of the paper discussed? (___/25 points)

Was there some *background* and historical information regarding the sources and availability of information? (___/25 points)

Were the contents *logically and thoroughly presented*? (___/25 points)

Was the topic *appropriate and interesting* to the audience? (___/25 points)

Were all *8 parts of the talk* there (see above)? (___/25 points)

Presentation (___/50 points)

Overheads and graphics (___/30 points)

Clear, easy to read.

Well explained.

Graphics properly cited!!

Organization (___/10 points)

Introduction shows where the talk is going.

Body of presentation well organized

Summary at end

Kept to 20 minute time limit

Clarity of presentation (___/10 points)

Demeanor of speaker

Speaking to the audience

Clear voice

Lack of disrupting gestures or phrases