

Current Topics in Ecosystem Research

Seminar spring term 2020

Christina Bogner

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Chapter 1

Prerequisites

The corona virus pandemic impacts our lives and changes the way we teach and learn. This course will start as an online course and depending on the situation will or will not turn into a traditional seminar. Please be patient if not all activities turn out to be successful and not all technical tools function as desired. We all will do our best to support you in your curriculum.

In this seminar we will use different tools for communication:

1. **ILIAS**: the e-learning platform of the university. You should have been registered automatically for the course.
2. **Campuswire**: the online chat and communication platform. You should have received an invitation to join.
3. **Zoom**: the video conference tool for live sessions. The link to the zoom meeting room and detailed instructions can be found on the ILIAS website.

Chapter 2

Introduction

2.1 Curriculum and grading

This course is part of either *Fachinhaltliche Vertiefung I* or *Fachinhaltliche Vertiefung II*. Its main rational is to give you the opportunity to delve into a exciting topic of your choice. You will

- present this topic to your peers (30% of your mark)
- write a critical literature review on it (70% of your mark)

2.2 Intended learning outcomes

- Apply structural reading (SQ4R) to scientific literature.
- Present professionally and discuss a topic in the scope of the seminar.
- Write a critical literature review on a topic in the scope of the seminar.
- Apply methods of scientific writing to your seminar paper
 - systematic literature search using data bases
 - selection of relevant literature
 - summary of research results avoiding plagiarism
 - critical evaluation
- Give peer feedback to your peers' work professionally in written form.

2.3 Class room values

- Be on time.
- Be prepared for an active participation (do the assignments!)
- Respect others' opinion.
- Be open to changing your perspective.
- Be open to topics and methods that might be unfamiliar to you.

Be patient with the new digital format of the course and your lecturer!

Chapter 3

Presentation

3.1 Presenting student

We will establish more detailed criteria of a good scientific presentation during the seminar. Thus, the following requirements are general and a strict minimum:

Content

- Title slide (title, your name, title of the seminar)
- Motivation slide: Why is this topic relevant and why does it need a critical review
- Body of your presentation: Here, you give information on your topic
- Critical evaluation or discussion
- References: you prepare, but do not show this slide

Time You have 15 minutes to present your topic. Afterwards, we will have a group discussion.

Feedback You will receive feedback from your peers in form of one-minute papers.

3.2 Peers

Chapter 4

Literature review

We have finished a nice book.

Chapter 5

Literature

Here is a review of existing methods.