

Graduate Research Report

If you are taking PBIO 5750 Global Change Ecology, then you need to complete a research report by the end of course.

Description

The research paper will be an exploration and review of a topic related to Global Change Ecology. There is wide latitude in the topic you choose--so long as it is related to some aspect of Global Change Ecology. You could explore one of the readings in greater detail or choose some other topic completely. In any case, the research paper should try to present the state of the science on the chosen topic. The paper should be written as a review paper for a journal. **The research paper should be 4,000 words and is due on 11:59 pm on the Sunday (16 June) following the last day of class: Please upload the final paper using the assignment tool in Brightspace. If for some reason, you have difficulty with this, please email me an electronic copy at brian.beckage@uvm.edu with Subject PBIO 5750: Research Project.**

More on Paper Content & Format

We will follow the format from the journal Nature for a review except for a few changes. Your grade will be lowered by 5% for each 100 words over or under the limits described below..

A review is an authoritative, balanced and scholarly survey of recent developments in a research field. Strong reviews provide fresh scientific insight and a novel synthesis of disparate evidence for the reader. The requirement for balance need not prevent you from proposing a specific viewpoint, but if there are controversies in the field, you must treat them in an even-handed way.

The scope of a review should be broad enough that it is not dominated by the work of a single laboratory, and particularly not by the authors' own work.

Format

- *Main text – no more than 4,000 words.*

Structure: Title, author, introduction followed by sections as appropriate to the material, and ending with a short conclusions section, followed by references..

- *Illustrations are allowed but not required.*
- *References – approximately 20, but we do not impose a strict limit.*

[Here is an example of a review that I contributed to Nature Human Behaviour.](#) You are not expected to provide this in depth of a review, of course (!). Our review also proposed a new

conceptual framework, which is again something that you are not expected to do. I share this example just to give you an idea of what a review is like.