EEB 698 Project Information, 2 October 2019

The purpose of the project is to give you experience applying seminar concepts to a question and data set you care about.

You can use any data you like, so long as it is species composition data (or something with similar properties). It will be helpful if you know something about how the data were collected.

You choose a question you would like to answer. If appropriate, you can have more than one question.

Use methods discussed in class (or others with my approval) to answer your question(s). You do not have to use all the techniques we discuss. Choose what techniques are appropriate to answer your question.

Prepare a 12-15 minute presentation that outlines your study system, the data set, and your question. Then, describes what you did and what you found out. Include a discussion of any interesting issues you had to solve or difficulties you encountered. Twelve – 15 minutes is not long, so limit yourself to one or two questions. Because we’ve all seen the course material, you don’t have to describe methods in detail unless you needed some extension or variation that we haven’t discussed.

Your presentation will be followed by a 5-8 minute question/answer session. I expect everyone to participate in asking questions (It’s a useful skill to develop, even if you’re shy).

There are 12 students enrolled for seminar credit. We can fit 3 presentations into the official class period + a bit more (1:10 – 2:10). I propose we use the last four weeks of seminar (Nov 13, Nov 20, Dec 4, Dec 13) for presentations. If you would like to present on one of the early dates, let me know. Otherwise, I’ll assign dates randomly.

I’m always very happy to chat about scope and approach.