Extra Credit for Undergraduate Students: Case Study

Undergraduate students may gain extra credit that is worth up to 5% of their final grade by completing and presenting a case study on an individual (or group of) invasive species. You can choose any invasive plant that has not already been chosen by someone else; however, your choice must be approved by the Instructor. If you need help choosing a plant, check those listed on the US Federal Noxious Weed List, those listed on the noxious weed list for any of the 50 states, and those listed on the Center for Invasive Plant Management: http://www.weedcenter.org/.

The presentation will consist of a 20-minute, oral, PowerPoint presentation that will be scheduled near the end of the semester on one of the following dates: April 28 or May 3, 2010. Case studies will be graded using the following criteria and weightings:

1. **Content:** includes items such as completeness of the case study, adequate review of the available literature, properly citing the sources of information, careful consideration of data and results, critical examination of problems and issues, creativity, and critical thinking. Content will be 80% of the total score.

2. **Style:** includes clarity and neatness of the presentation and composed manner during the presentation. Style will be 20% of the total score.

The case study should include at least the following items:

- Name (scientific and common) and description, including diagnostic characteristics
- Geographic range (native and new) and favored habitats in its new range
- Biological and ecological characteristics that contribute towards its invasive ability
- Ecological and societal impacts
- Management strategies (what works, what doesn’t work, and what would you recommend trying)
- Literature Cited

Be sure to include a list of references at the end of your presentation in a “Literature Cited” slide. References should be listed in alphabetical order by the first author's last name or web site publisher’s name. If needed, use more than 1 slide for the references cited. Format the references as follows:

a) **Journal articles**

Journal articles should include: name(s) and initial(s) of all authors; year; full title; journal title; volume number; first and last page numbers. Example:


b) **Book chapters**

Book chapters should include: name(s) and initial(s) of all authors; year; title of article; editor(s); title of book; edition; volume number; publisher; place of publication; page numbers. Example:


c) **Books**

Citations for books should include: name(s) and initial(s) of all authors; year; title; edition; publisher; place of publication. Example:

d) Web sites
Citations for web sites should include: publisher’s name; year; title of web page; URL; date accessed.
Example:
**Note:** *If you retrieve a journal article from a web site, use the journal article citation format, NOT the web site format!*