**BIOL 416 Terrestrial Ecosystems Media Presentation Group Seminar assignment**

This assignment is centred on course learning outcome #7 which is that by the end of the course the student should be able to:

**Create an original, cohesive, synthesis media presentation to promote some ‘cool’ terrestrial biology insight or idea that is unique to ecosystem-level science.**

The 3 most relevant other course learning outcomes related to this assignment are that by the end of the course the student should be able to:

1. Explain and evaluate the major concepts underlying terrestrial ecosystem ecology that distinguish it from lower hierarchical levels in biology such as community and population ecology
2. Describe and contrast the major processes and features that distinguish local terrestrial ecosystems, especially in the context of how soil-plant relationships and land-use practices have influenced the pre- and post-colonial landscape around Kingston
3. Formulate clear, original, challenging, and concise thematic questions from study reading material that are likely to lead to focussed and intellectually probing seminar group discussions, student-led seminar topics, and short media presentations

The exercise is aimed at encouraging you to reflect on the terrestrial ecosystem ecology concepts, ideas, and knowledge you have encountered in this course. Working in the same groups (2-3 people) as for your SDG15 target seminars, you will meet and deliberate on those concepts, ideas or knowledge pieces that were the most inspiring and that are unique to ecosystem-level science. Once you have decided on your top choice, your group will then generate a short media audio podcast or video to communicate that ‘cool’ terrestrial biology insight or idea.

Media presentations will be graded as a group exercise according to the following criteria:

1. Quality of content focus in terms of impressing the audience of the particular value of terrestrial ecosystem-level science
2. Evidence of independent critical thinking and original ideas
3. Presentation structure, clarity and effectiveness – logical flow
4. Audience engagement potential -i.e. its likelihood to appeal to a broad public audience
5. Presentation creativity and enthusiasm

Please pay attention to the above criteria very carefully - They tell you what I am looking for! - An interesting, inspiring, and engaging media presentation that is likely to appeal to a broad audience, and to impress that audience of the particular value of terrestrial ecosystem-level science.

Timeline: The final presentations should be emailed to [groganp@queensu.ca](mailto:groganp@queensu.ca) by 10 pm on **Sunday April 3rd**. I am available to help as needed at the end of all prior seminar sessions, and over the full session on Tuesday March 29th which is otherwise free.

Notes:

1. The presentation should be typically 3 minutes in length, and definitely no more than 5 minutes.
2. If you have other ideas of how to present such material in recorded media form (e.g. infographics, artwork, etc.), I am very open to considering your suggestions.
3. Review the terrestrial ecosystem ecology seminars and associated textbook readings from the first half of the course as potential sources of inspiration, but do also check out other sections of the textbook, and the sources in the Course Reference list, as well as the Web of Science database.