

**Chemistry 460/Biology 452/Applied Science 452**  
**Self-organization in Science**  
**Syllabus—Spring 2012**

Carey Bagdassarian  
1058 ISC  
221-2556  
[ckbagd@wm.edu](mailto:ckbagd@wm.edu)

Office Hours: by appointment

Welcome! Here's the pertinent information for the course:

**Texts:**

Adventures in Modeling (Colella et al.)  
Self-organization in Biological Systems (Camazine et al.)  
Signs of Life (Sole and Goodwin)

**Contents:** Oscillating chemical reactions, networks, foodwebs, chaos theory, swarm behavior, etc etc – in other words whatever catches my fancy and yours.

**Grading:** so here's how this works. 50% of your grade will be a term paper, and 50% will be an in-class presentation of a computer simulation motivated by your paper topic. Simple? Yes, but I expect a good deal of sophistication and evolution of your thinking as the course progresses . . . we'll talk about that in class.

**Class Attendance:** is Mandatory!! The grading scheme above will be nullified if you do not attend class! No kidding. We'll talk about this in class as well.

Enjoy! And thank you for taking this course (especially those of you who voluntarily opted to put up with me for yet another semester!)