

1035-B1-1768 **Greg Huber*** (huber@math.uconn.edu), Department of Mathematics, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT 06269. *Geometry and Biology – A Project-based Course.*

An honors course, entitled "Geometry and Biology" was offered for the first time in fall 2007, in the Mathematics Department at the University of Connecticut. This course was based on four successive "problem projects", with the students organized in teams of two for a good part of the semester. The final project (the 4th) was an individual project. The course model was adapted from B. Tilley's Mathematical Modeling course at Olin College. Teams changed composition at the conclusion of each project. The philosophy of the course was very similar to that of mathematical modeling, except that students chose their own problems and methods of solution. The duration of projects followed a pyramidal scheme: 1 week, 2 weeks, 3 weeks, and, finally, 6 weeks (for the individual project). This particular format has some advantages: a unique classroom experience completely atypical of their other classes, peer instruction through the constant permutation of team members, student problem selection and not problem assignment, growth in confidence and abilities, and personal investment and sustained interest in problems and their solution. (Received September 20, 2007)