BIOS 6979—Seminars in Biology: Molecular Biology
Fall 2016     CRN 45274

Instructor: Don Kane
Office: 3169 Wood Hall
Email: don.kane@wmich.edu

Class: M 12:30 PM - 2:00 PM 3715 Wood Hall

Text: None

Course Description: A series of seminars by course participants summarizing current research in various fields in the Biological Sciences. Course is graded on the presentations of course participants and on participation.

Prerequisite: None. Course may be repeated for credit.

Course Objectives:
1. Students will be able to read papers in the current biological literature.
2. Students will become versed in the current literature.
3. Students will be able to criticize the current literature.
4. Students will be able to effectively communicate this literature to their colleagues and mentors.

Grading: Class attendance is mandatory and in class participation will be noted. Each student will present one primary paper from the current literature to the class, one student per week. There is no final. The student’s presentations will be graded using the attached rubric. Those missing two classes without an officially accepted excuse will lose one grade level.

Grade Scale

This course is graded Pass/No Pass
Pass is B or better.

Presentation(s) 60%
In-class Participation 40%
Schedule

12-Sep    Don and Rachel—GSA meeting
19-Sep    Pam and NaTasha—GSA meeting
26-Sep    Sarah, Tanya and Mark—GSA meeting
3-Oct     
10-Oct    
17-Oct    
24-Oct    
31-Oct    
7-Nov     
14-Nov    
21-Nov    
28-Nov    
5-Dec     

**Academic Honesty:** You are responsible for making yourself aware of and understanding the policies and procedures in the Undergraduate or Graduate Catalog that pertain to Academic Honesty. These policies include cheating, fabrication, falsification and forgery, multiple submission, plagiarism, complicity and computer misuse. If there is reason to believe you have been involved in academic dishonesty, you will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. You will be given the opportunity to review the charge(s). If you believe you are not responsible, you will have the opportunity for a hearing. You should consult with me if you are uncertain about an issue of academic honesty prior to the submission of an assignment or test.
# Presentation Rubric for Molecular Biology Seminar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>D Level</th>
<th>C Level</th>
<th>B Level</th>
<th>A Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Topic</strong></td>
<td>Topic inappropriate for journal club format or inappropriate for presentation skill.</td>
<td>Topic could be better matched to journal club format and skill level.</td>
<td>Good topic choice.</td>
<td>Good topic choice and good match to presentation skill.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Knowledge</strong></td>
<td>Not enough information was presented to judge subject knowledge; mistakes in background information; many instances of misunderstanding.</td>
<td>Adequate knowledge for most of presentation; occasional instances of misunderstandings.</td>
<td>In-depth knowledge was demonstrated; no incorrect statements or misunderstandings.</td>
<td>Expert knowledge (more than required) was demonstrated and used to extend value of presentation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Presentation Style</strong></td>
<td>More creativity was needed to keep audience interest; appearance, body language, and gestures need improvement; vocal volume and variation need improvement. Presentation obviously not practiced.</td>
<td>Presentation was somewhat clear and adequate; appearance and mannerisms appropriate; voice and language adequate for the delivery of the presentation. In general, the presentation could be improved with practice.</td>
<td>Presentation was skillful and creative; appearance and mannerisms are presented with businesslike conduct and style; voice and language are skillful and effective.</td>
<td>Presentation was highly creative, artistic, and accomplished; appearance and mannerisms are presented with professional demeanor and personal style; volume, tone, inflection, timing and language are used to enhance presentation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Visual Aids</strong></td>
<td>Visual aids unclear or unorganized; misspellings and poorly labeled figures common.</td>
<td>Visual aids were clear and organized; some poorly labeled figures.</td>
<td>Visual aids were clear and effective.</td>
<td>Visual aids created a unified and visually cohesive presentation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Questions</strong></td>
<td>More practice needed to answer questions; many questions not answered adequately.</td>
<td>Questions answered or handled but often unable to provide answers immediately.</td>
<td>Skillful answers to questions; questions are linked to the presentation purpose.</td>
<td>Questions are used to extend and enhance the presentation.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>