

Syllabus Introduction to Graduate Research - BIOL 7000 A – 2 Credit

CRN #21996 - Spring 2014

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Lecture: 6:00 pm – 7:50 pm Monday Room 1202 Bio/Chem Bldg.

Office Hours: 4:30 – 6:00 pm Wednesday or by appointment. I also have an open door policy, I encourage students to drop by whenever they may need help with the course. Please understand however, that under these circumstances, you may have to wait until I am free of other things.

Course Objectives: This course is an introduction to formal scientific research designed for the entry level graduate student. Students should complete the course with some appreciation of the diversity of faculty research interests and methods as well as having learned about the formal requirements and protocols necessary to conducting research in a university setting.

Grading policy: Students will be given several assignments to complete throughout the semester relating to applying for review and permission to conduct research projects. These will include, but are not limited to: Library and primary research literature methods, Animal Care Committee research protocol approval, Biohazard Committee research review and approval, Recombinant DNA protocol review and approval, Grants and Contracts funding database search, mock (or real) Grant writing. In addition, students will participate in faculty research seminars and discussions. 75% of the grade will be based upon satisfactory completion of assigned projects. 25% of the grade will be based on attendance and participation in faculty presentations.

Missed Assignments: Don't miss assignments or classes. You are now graduate students and hence pre-professionals. And I expect you to perform as such. Since we only meet once a week, one missed class constitutes a significant amount of the course. Any missed assignment will automatically result in that work counting as a zero score. Absolutely no makeup work will be given. No late assignments will be accepted for a grade.

Attendance: I assume that students in this class are adults and are responsible for their own attendance, study habits and behavior. Note that missing class will mean missing a lot of material and it is unlikely a student can do well in this course without regular attendance. Students will be responsible for all assignments and materials, lecture and text regardless of attendance. Students should also be aware of the following university attendance policies: **(1) Students who miss 20% of lecture time will receive an automatic failing grade for the course. (2) Students who do not regularly attend lecture, as determined by taking class role, by the proof role date may be automatically dropped from the class. (3) Students who neither drop nor attend class by the midterm date will receive an automatic F for the course. Also note: students are responsible for the text and lecture material on exams regardless of whether or not they come to class routinely. It is unlikely that students can perform well on exams in this class with poor attendance.**

Some Basic Class Rules:

1. Turn in assignments on time. No late assignments will be accepted for a grade.
2. Do assignments exactly as instructed. Do not change formats, page lengths, or content.
3. Do not try to negotiate homework, test or assignments. They are not optional, nor changeable. They must be complete.
4. Be on time for tests, lectures
5. NO disruptive behavior will be tolerated (as defined in your student handbook, page 24
6. **Honor Policy:** Cheating nor plagiarism will not be tolerated in this class and will be prosecuted to the full extent allowed by university policy and the law. Cheating and plagiarism will be considered to be any act as defined in the university handbook and the Biology Department web site on plagiarism.

Dropping A Course Without Penalty: In order to officially drop a course without penalty, a student must obtain and fill out a drop/add form from the Registrar's Office, acquire appropriate signatures, and return the completed form to the Registrar's Office before the designated date (published in the academic calendar). If you don't officially withdraw, and instead just stop coming to class, you will receive an F for the course.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act: Grades cannot be posted by name, Social Security number or other personal identifiers, nor given out over the telephone.

ADA Statement: Students requesting classroom accommodations or modifications because of a documented disability must contact the Access Office for Students with Disabilities located in room 1115 Nevin's Hall. The phone numbers are 245-2498 (voice) and 219-1348 (tty).

Tentative Schedule: Please note that this is an incomplete schedule to be adjusted as speakers are scheduled. It will change depending on faculty and organizational availability and the rate at which material is covered.

January

Monday 13 –First class meeting
Monday 20 - MLK Day – no classes
Monday 27 - Speaker

February

Monday 3 – Speaker
Monday 10 - Speaker.
Monday 17 - Speaker
Monday 24 - Speaker

March

Monday 3 - Speaker
Thursday 6 - Midterm
Monday 10 - Speaker
Monday 17-21 – Spring Break – No Classes
Monday 24– Speaker
Monday 31– Speaker

April

Monday 7 - Speaker –
Monday 14 - Speaker -
Monday 21 – Speaker –
Monday 28 - Speaker –

May

Monday 5 - **Final project draft due – Last class day**