Biol 400 – Spring 2019

Instructor: Dr. Diane Caporale
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D2L: Biol 400 Sect 1
Office Hours: Wed & Fri: 10-11am, or appt

Class Meetings:
Fridays 12-1pm, CBB 330

Course Objectives:
This course is designed to give guidance in scientific writing for students completing their independent study project. Requirements include the beginning or completion of a research paper, depending on the progress of their research, and a presentation of their research experience.

Learning Outcomes: Upon completing this requirement, students will be able to:
1) Apply discipline-specific standards of oral and written communication to compose an articulate, grammatically correct, and organized presentation/piece of writing with properly documented and supported ideas, evidence, and information suitable to the topic, purpose, and audience;

2) Critique their own and others' writing/oral presentations to provide effective and useful feedback to improve their communication.

Grading Scale:

A =	93 – 100 pt	B- =	80 – 82.5 pt	D+ =	67 – 69.5 pt
A- =	90 – 92.5 pt	C+ =	77 – 79.5 pt	D =	60 – 66.5 pt
B+ =	87 – 89.5 pt	C =	73 – 76.5 pt	F =	< 60
B =	83 – 86.5 pt	C- =	70 – 72.5 pt		

Attendance Policy:
You are required to work at least 3 hours/wk in lab for Biol 400 and at least 3 hr/wk more if you are registered for Biol 399. Students who must miss a writing assignment deadline due to religious observances or participation in university sanctioned events should notify me within the first 3 weeks of the beginning of class, so makeup arrangements can be made. The only other valid excuses for missing a deadline are: death in the family, violent illness, or accident. In such cases: (1) you must provide evidence of some kind (eg. note from health center), **and** (2) you must reschedule **within 24 hrs** after the date of the deadline.

Schedule:

Week	Assignments for Alencar, Hagedorn, Tondin, Smith	Assignments for Weisman	% Points
1	Introduction to lab group		1
2	Each grow up 2 wildtype and 2 variant plasmids	PCR & gel electrophoresis gene 1	1
3	Plasmid isolation and transfection	Sequence gene 1, PCR & gel electrophoresis gene 2	1
4	RNA isolation, rtPCR and sequencing	Sequence gene 2, PCR & gel electrophoresis gene 3	1
5	Sequence analysis: compare wildtypes to variants	Sequence gene 3, PCR & gel electrophoresis gene 4	1
6	Perform replicates: Grow up 2 wildtype and 2 variant plasmids per person	Sequence gene 4, PCR & gel electrophoresis gene 5	1
7	Plasmid isolation and transfection	Sequence gene 5, PCR & gel electrophoresis gene 6	1
8	RNA isolation, rtPCR and sequencing	Sequence gene 6, PCR & gel electrophoresis those that did not work 1st time	1
9	Sequence analysis: compare wildtypes to variants and with first round of experiments	Sequence those that did not work 1st time	1
10	First draft of poster or PPT due (excluding results/discussion section) Critique each other's 1st draft		10
11	Results/discussion due		20
12	Final draft of poster or PPT due – including results/discussion section		40
13	Oral Presentation (PPT or Poster) to lab group		10
14	Presentation at CL&S Undergraduate Research Symposium		10
15	Clean up lab bench		1