

SEMINAR: Molecular Biology SYLLABUS

Biol 490 Sect 4– Spring 2012

Instructor: Dr. Diane Caporale

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Office Hours: Tues 10-11am & Wed 3-4pm

(or by appointment)

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Required Manual: Pechenik, J. 2009, A Short Guide to Writing About Biology, 7th ed.
To be purchased through the UWSP Bookstore.

Class Meetings: Tuesdays @ 11:00 – 11:50 pm; SCI A208

Course Objectives: Students will be introduced to the aims and format of biological writing in molecular biology. This will help students to: a) understand the writing tasks and challenges unique to the biological sciences, and b) learn how to think creatively about biology while writing clearly, accurately, and concisely. Students will also become more prepared for entering the job market or graduate school.

Grading:

Assignment	% Points
Oral Presentation	20
Molecular Paper Summary/Critique	20
Curriculum Vitae	25
Cover Letter or Essay	15
10 Oral Critiques & participation	20

Your final letter grade is calculated as follows:

A = 93 – 100 pt

A- = 90 – 92.5 pt

B+ = 87 – 89.5 pt

B = 83 – 86.5 pt

B- = 80 – 82.5 pt

C+ = 77 – 79.5 pt

C = 73 – 76.5 pt

C- = 70 – 72.5 pt

D+ = 67 – 69.5 pt

D = 60 – 66.5 pt

F = < 60

Attendance Policy: I strongly recommend you attend every seminar. Missing any class will put you at a distinct disadvantage when doing writing assignments. 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.

Academic Misconduct: You are responsible for the honest completion and representation of your work and for the respect of others' academic endeavors. Any act of cheating, plagiarism, or academic misconduct is subject to the penalties outlined in UWS Chapter 14.

Please refer to this link for more info:

<http://www.uwsp.edu/centers/rights/RRBOOKLET8-2005-06.pdf>

MOLECULAR BIOLOGY: SEMINAR SCHEDULE

Week	Date (Tues)	Topic	Reading (Chapter)	Assignment
1	Sep 4	Introduction, Student Information	1, 2	<u>Find</u> a job listing or graduate/professional program to apply for
2	11	Writing a Curriculum Vitae (resume)	13 Handouts	<u>Compile</u> your CV
3	18	Critiquing CVs, Writing an Application Letter & Essay	13 Handouts	CV Due <u>Write</u> your Application letter (or essay)
4	25	Critiquing Application Letters		Application Letter or Essay Due
5	Oct 2	Careers in Molecular Biology, Being Interviewed		<u>Find</u> a Recent Journal Article authored by a potential graduate advisor, supervisor, biotech company, etc., or within your field of interest
6	9	How to Read & Critique a Journal Article	3, 7	pdf Copy of Journal Article due Summary & Critique Due 1 week prior to Presentation
7	16	Criteria for Oral Presentations	12 Handout	Oral Presentations will be critiqued by each student in class. Attendance & Participation is required for credit (4% per week)
8	23	2 Oral Presentations / Critiques		
9	30	2 Oral Presentations / Critiques		
10	Nov 6	2 Oral Presentations / Critiques		
11	13	2 Oral Presentations / Critiques		
12	20	2 Oral Presentations / Critiques		
13	27	2 Oral Presentations / Critiques		
14	Dec 4	2 Oral Presentations / Critiques		
15	11	1 Oral Presentation / Critique Evaluation of your Major		