

SEMINAR: GENETICS & BIOTECHNOLOGY SYLLABUS

Biol 490 Sect 5 – Fall 2020

Instructor: Dr. Diane Caporale
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Canvas: Biol 490 Sect 5
Office Hrs: by appt

Required Book: Hofmann, A., Writing in the Biological Sciences, 3rd edition. For purchase at bookstore.

Class Meetings: Fri 9:00 – 10:50 am; CBB 101 or Zoom

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.
- b) learn how to think creatively about biology while writing clearly, accurately, and concisely.
- c) become more prepared for entering the job market or graduate school.

Learning Outcomes: Upon completing this requirement, students will be able to:

- 1) Locate, critically read, synthesize and discuss the primary literature dealing with multiple aspects of molecular biology,
- 2) 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,
- 3) Critique their own and others' writing/oral presentations to provide effective and useful feedback to improve their communication.

Face Coverings:

At all UW-Stevens Point campus locations, the wearing of face coverings is mandatory in all buildings, including classrooms, laboratories, studios, and other instructional spaces. Any student with a condition that impacts their use of a face covering should contact the [Disability and Assistive Technology Center](#) to discuss accommodations in classes. Please note that unless everyone is wearing a face covering, in-person classes cannot take place. This is university policy and not up to the discretion of individual instructors. Failure to adhere to this requirement could result in formal withdrawal from the course.

Other Guidance:

- Please monitor your own health each day using [this screening tool](#). If you are not feeling well or believe you have been exposed to COVID-19, do not come to class; email your instructor and contact Student Health Service (715-346-4646).
 - As with any type of absence, students are expected to communicate their need to be absent and complete the course requirements as outlined in the syllabus.
- Maintain a minimum of 6 feet of physical distance from others whenever possible.
- Do not congregate in groups before or after class; stagger your arrival and departure from the classroom, lab, or meeting room.
- Wash your hands or use appropriate hand sanitizer regularly and avoid touching your face.
- Please maintain these same healthy practices outside the classroom.

Assignment	% Points
Curriculum Vitae	5
Cover Letter or Personal Statement	5
Article Summary & Critique	10
Oral Presentation & PPT of Sum/Crit	10, 5
Reference Section / Outline of Review Paper	5, 5
Review Paper	20
Oral Presentation & PPT of Review Paper	10, 10
Critiques of Oral Presentations	5
Critiques of CV, Letter, & Review paper; Summaries	10

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: I strongly recommend you attend every seminar (regardless of whether it's face-to-face or Zoom). 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.

E-mail: Students are expected to check their University e-mail regularly for information from the university and/or instructor. If you are using an e-mail account other than your campus account to contact me, be sure your full name is included in the message.

Canvas: Examples of each of the assignments will be posted on D2L for your perusal. Schedules for each of the oral presentations will also be posted. Each article will be linked to the first oral presentation schedule, for the class to read ahead of time.

Electronic Devices: Cell phones should be turned **off** and **not** be displayed during class, lab or exam. No other communication or musical devices are allowed. Students needing a foreign language dictionary during exams may use one with permission from instructor.

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>

Required Comprehensive Biology Exam: Satisfactory completion of this 490 course requires the completion of the Biology Department's comprehensive exam. **Test scores are used to compare class averages among various populations of biology majors to assess general student learning. Scores will not be made available to you nor your instructor and will have no bearing on grades.** However, your 490 grade will be withheld until the exam is taken. The exam **will take approximately 60 minutes. Times being offered TBD.**

BIOTECHNOLOGY SEMINAR SCHEDULE

Week	Date	Topic	Ch	Assignment
1	Sept 4	Introduction, Student Information, Writing a Curriculum Vitae (resume)	16	Find a job listing or graduate/professional program to apply for; Compile your CV
2	11	Critiquing CVs, Writing an Application Letter or Personal Statement	16	<u>Due (9/11): CV</u> Revise CV & write your application letter or essay
3	18	Critiquing Application Letters, Being Interviewed (volunteers)	16	<u>Due (9/18): Revised CV & 1st draft of Application Letter / Essay</u>
4	25	How to Read, Summarize & Critique a Journal Article,	1-3, 10	<u>Due (9/25): Revised Applic. Letter / Essay</u> Choose a Biotechnology Journal Article
5	Oct 2	How to Write a Review Paper & Outline	11	<u>Due (10/2): email pdf of Journal Article</u>
6	9	Criteria for Oral Presentations, Summary & Critique PPT Examples	13	<u>Due: final copy of CV/coverletter/statement</u> <u>Due: Summary/Critique 1 week before oral (except Orals on Oct 16, summary/critique is due 1 day before presentation via email)</u> <u>Due: email PPT 1 DAY before presentation</u> Oral Presentations will be peer reviewed
7	16	F-to-F or Zoom of Journal Article PPT: Yazeed Sarah		
8	23	Nicholas Kaitlyn Elyssa		<u>Due (10/23): Reference Section of Review Paper</u>
9	30	Michaela Luke Carolyn		<u>Due (10/30): Outline of Review Paper</u>
10	Nov 6	Lauren Derek		continue to work on review paper
11	13	Critique 1 st Draft of Review Paper Rubric for Oral present of review paper	8	<u>Due (11/13): 1st Draft of Review Paper</u>
12	20	Zoom of Review Paper PPT: Yazeed Sarah Nicholas		<u>Due (11/20): Revised Review Paper</u>
13	27	THANKSGIVING		<u>Due: email PPT 1 day before presentation</u>
14	Dec 4	Zoom of Review Paper PPT: Kaitlyn Elyssa Michaela Luke		<i>Exit Exam Required for Biology Majors only – Dates: TBD</i>
15	11	Zoom of Review Paper PPT: Carolyn Lauren Derek		