

SEMINAR: GENETICS & BIOTECHNOLOGY SYLLABUS

Biol 490 Sect 2 – Fall 2018

Instructor: Dr. Diane Caporale
Office: 343 CBB Building
Phone: (715) 346-3922

Email: dcaporal@uwsp.edu
D2L: Biol 490 Sect 2
Office Hours: Tues/Thur 1-2pm
or Friday by appointment

Required Book: Pechenik, J. 2009, A Short Guide to Writing About Biology, 8th ed.
To be purchased online for under \$20 at [College Textbooks Central](#).

Class Meetings: Wed 9:00 – 10:50 am; CBB 271

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.

Grading:

| Assignment | % Points |
|--|----------|
| Curriculum Vitae | 5 |
| Cover Letter or Essay | 5 |
| Article Summary & Critique | 10 |
| Oral Presentation & PPT of Article S&C | 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. 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.

D2L: 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** and will be offered on:

(Please attend one of these times)

Wednesday and Thursday 5-6 of December, 6-7 PM in TNR 464.

If you cannot attend either of these examination times, please contact Dr. Krista Slemmons, kslemmon@uwsp.edu or Nancy Shefferly, nsheffer@uwsp.edu to schedule an alternate time.

BIOTECHNOLOGY SEMINAR SCHEDULE

| Week | Date | Topic | Ch | Assignment |
|------|--------|---|-------------|--|
| 1 | Sept 5 | Introduction, Student Information, Writing a Curriculum Vitae (resume) | 1, 2, 13 | Find a job listing or graduate/professional program to apply for; Compile your CV |
| 2 | 12 | Critiquing CVs, Writing an Application Letter / Essay | 13 | <u>Due (9/12): CV</u> Revise CV & write your application letter or essay |
| 3 | 19 | Critiquing Application Letters, Being Interviewed (volunteers) | 13 | <u>Due (9/19): Revised CV & 1st draft of Application Letter / Essay</u> |
| 4 | 26 | How to Read, Summarize & Critique a Journal Article, Example given in class | 3, 7 | <u>Due (9/26): Revised Applic. Letter / Essay</u> Choose a Biotechnology Journal Article |
| 5 | Oct 1 | How to Write a Review Paper & Outline, Example given in class | 8 | <u>Due (10/1): email pdf of Journal Article</u> |
| 6 | 20 | Criteria for Oral Presentations, Summary & Critique PPT Examples | 12 | <u>Due: email PPT 1 DAY before presentation</u> |
| 7 | 17 | No Seminar | | Oral Presentations will be critiqued by each student during seminars |
| 8 | 24 | 4 student presentations | | <u>Due (10/24): Reference Section of Review Paper</u> |
| 9 | 31 | 4 student presentations | | <u>Due (10/31): Outline of Review Paper</u> |
| 10 | 7 | 4 student presentations | | continue to work on review paper |
| 11 | 14 | Critique 1 st Draft of Review Paper | | <u>Due (11/14): 1st Draft of Review Paper</u> |
| 12 | 21 | 3 student presentations | | <u>Due (11/21): Revised Review Paper</u> |
| 13 | 28 | 3 student presentations | | Due: email PPT 1 day before presentation |
| 14 | Dec 5 | 3 student presentations | | <i>Exit Exam Required</i> |
| 15 | 12 | 3 student presentations Evaluation of Major | | <i>Choose one of the following dates: Wed, Dec 5 or Thur Dec 6 6-7 pm TNR 464</i> |