

ABIO 490 Senior Seminar: Fall 2008

Instructor: Dr. Michelle Vieyra

Office Hours: By Appointment

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Office: SBDG 209

Lab: SBDG 219B

Meeting Times: W 6-7:15 SBDG 107, F 1-2:15 SBDG 327

Course Description: Discussion and presentation of current topics in biology and geology by students, faculty and visiting scientists. Emphasis is placed on effective oral communication and critical examination of scientific information and ideas. Students will prepare a research proposal, critically critique peer writing and presentations, practice giving scientific presentations and give a final formal presentation.

Course Objectives: Students will be introduced to current research in the fields of biological and geological science by attending the presentations of visiting researchers. Students will learn how to prepare a scientific research proposal, give a formal research presentation and critically critique the work of their peers in a constructive manner based on scientific principles. BS students will write a proposal addressing the laboratory project they are doing with a faculty mentor and BA students will write a proposal addressing a current topic in biological or geological science that will be presented at the end of the semester. Students will give a formal presentation of their research in the form of a Power Point presentation (BS) or poster (BA) at the end of the semester.

BS Student Obligations: Completion of MFAT exam, preparation of research proposal, preparation and delivery of two practice presentations, delivery of the final presentation, peer evaluation, attendance at all Wednesday practice classes and Friday Seminars.

BA Student Obligations: Completion of MFAT exam, preparation of research proposal, preparation and delivery of two practice presentations (given as a Power Point), delivery of the final poster, peer evaluation, attendance at all Wednesday practice classes and Friday Seminars.

Attendance: The purpose of this course is to observe professional presentations of current local research, give your own scientific presentations and learn how to critically examine and comment on peer work. Attendance is therefore critical. This is reflected in the weight given to attendance in the evaluation breakdown seen below. For every Friday seminar missed 200 points will be deducted from the attendance score; for every Wednesday class missed 100 points will be deducted.

Evaluation:

| | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| MFAT performance | 50 points | A: 1800 points |
| Research proposal | 200 points | B+: 1700 points |
| Peer review | 150 points | B: 1600 points |
| Practice presentations | 300 points (150 pts. each) | C+: 1500 points |
| Final presentation | 300 points | C: 1400 points |
| <u>Attendance</u> | <u>1000 points</u> | D+: 1300 points |
| Total: | 2000 points | D: 1200 points |

Disability Statement: If you have a physical, psychological and/or learning disability that might affect your performance in this class please contact the Office of Disability services, 126A B&E, (803) 641-3609 as soon as possible. They will determine appropriate accommodations based on medical documentation.

Wednesday Class Schedule

| Date | Topic | DUE |
|--------|---|-------------|
| 27-Aug | Introduction, discuss MFAT, discuss research proposal, lit search | |
| 3-Sep | Peer review 1st draft research proposals | 1st Draft |
| 10-Sep | Peer review 2nd draft research proposals | 2nd Draft |
| 17-Sep | Research Proposals Due, discuss presentations | Final Draft |
| 24-Sep | Oral presentation practice #1 | |
| 1-Oct | Oral presentation practice #1 | |
| 8-Oct | Oral presentation practice #1 | |
| 15-Oct | Oral presentation practice #1&2 | |
| 22-Oct | Oral presentation practice #2 | |
| 29-Oct | Oral presentation practice #2 | |
| 5-Nov | Oral presentation practice #2 | |
| 12-Nov | Practice with mentors - No Meeting | |
| 19-Nov | Practice with mentors - No Meeting | |
| 26-Nov | THANKSGIVING - NO CLASS | |
| 3-Dec | Practice with mentors - No Meeting | |

Friday Seminar Schedule

| Date | Event |
|--------|---|
| 29-Aug | MFAT Exam Allow 3 hours for completion |
| 5-Sep | Dr. Tammi Richardson - USC Columbia |
| 12-Sep | Dr. Jeffry Dudycha - USC Columbia |
| 19-Sep | Dr. Zheng Dong - MCG |
| 26-Sep | Seminar Speaker TBA |
| 3-Oct | Dr. Jennifer Barwick - Greenwood Genetics Center |
| 10-Oct | FALL BREAK - NO SPEAKER |
| 17-Oct | Pamela Brannock - USC Columbia |
| 24-Oct | Dr. Ron Woodruff - Bowling Green State University |
| 31-Oct | Seminar Speaker TBA |
| 7-Nov | Dr. Richard Long - USC Columbia |
| 14-Nov | STUDENT PRESENTATIONS |
| 21-Nov | STUDENT PRESENTATIONS |
| 28-Nov | THANKSGIVING - NO SPEAKER |
| 5-Dec | STUDENT PRESENTATIONS |