

BIOL 385: Senior Seminar in Biochemistry
Spring 2020, Wed 9:30 - 10:20 ISC 137

Instructor

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Office hours: Thursday 3-4:30 pm, Friday 9:30-11 am

Course Description

Discussion of current literature, recent advances, perspectives, or selected topics in Biochemistry.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course you will be able to:

- (1) Find, understand, and analyze scientific literature, with an emphasis on current topics in biochemistry.
- (2) Understand and interpret data from scientific articles, and explain how it relates to the main hypothesis of the article.
- (3) Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of a scientific article
- (4) Be able to present an original, written analysis of articles from the primary literature.
- (5) Create a formal presentation about your work, and respond to feedback from myself and your peers.
- (6) Analyze and be able to give thoughtful, constructive criticism to your peers

Grading

Assignment	Due Date	Points
Weekly Participation	--	15 pts
Article 1 discussion questions	01/29	3 pts
Article 2 discussion questions, Citations for three articles related to topic of interest	02/05	3 pts
Subject of topic of interest due	02/12	3 pts
Group-led paper discussion	varies	10 pts
Draft 1 of paper on topic of interest	02/26	6 pts
Peer review of paper on topic of interest	03/11	10 pts
Student presentation on topic of interest	varies	20 pts
Draft 2 of paper on topic of interest	04/01	10 pts
Final version of paper	05/06	20 pts

100 pts

Grade disputes must be initiated within one week from when the assignment was handed back. The following scale will be used to calculate final grades.

A (93-100%)	A- (90-92%)	
B+ (87-89%)	B (83-86%)	B- (80-82%)
C+ (77-79%)	C (73-76%)	C- (70-72%)
D (60-69%)		
E (<60%)		

Attendance and Participation

Attendance for this class is mandatory. Missing class without permission of the instructor will result in a 2 pt deduction from your participation grade for each absence. For approved absences, students must make arrangements with the instructor to make up any missed assignments.

Participation makes up a significant portion of your grade. A seminar style class such as this one simply does not work well, and frankly is not any fun, if students don't participate. The purpose of this course is not for me to lecture at you every week. Each week you can earn 1 pt for participation by speaking during class – it is expected that you ask a question, answer a question, or speak up during a discussion at least twice during class every week (hopefully more!). I will be keeping track of participation and can provide feedback throughout the semester.

Turning in Assignments

Some assignments will be brought to class, others will be turned in on Canvas. Please note that assignments are due either due before class starts (Canvas) or at the beginning of class (turned in in person).

Students with Disabilities

SUNY Geneseo will make reasonable accommodations for persons with documented physical, emotional, or cognitive disabilities. Accommodations will be made for medical conditions related to pregnancy or parenting. Students should contact Dean Buggie-Hunt in the Office of Disability Services (tbuggieh@geneseo.edu or [585-245-5112](tel:585-245-5112)) and their faculty (Dr. Hutchison) to discuss needed accommodations as early as possible in the semester.

Academic Dishonesty & Plagiarism

Students are expected to adhere to the University's policy on academic dishonesty and plagiarism, located in the student handbook. Academic dishonesty and plagiarism have serious consequences, and if you're struggling in class, please ask for help rather than resort to academic dishonesty! Academic dishonesty will result in a zero on the assignment or exam. In addition, a report will be filed to the department chair and Dean of the College, and a record of academic dishonesty will be placed in the student's file at the Dean of Students Office.

Tentative Schedule of Topics (subject to change at instructor's discretion):

Week	Day	Subject	Assignment for next week	Assignment due
1	22-Jan	Introduction	Article 1 discussion questions	-
2	29-Jan	Discussion of paper 1	Article 2 discussion questions, three articles for topic of interest	Article 1 discussion questions
3	5-Feb	Discussion of paper 2	Group 1 - email paper choice and discussion questions by Friday midnight; Choose a topic of interest	Article 2 discussion questions; Three articles for topic of interest
4	12-Feb	Group 1 paper discussion	Group 2 - email paper choice and discussion questions by Friday midnight	Choose a topic of interest
5	19-Feb	Group 2 paper discussion	Group 3 - email paper choice and discussion questions by Friday midnight; Paper draft 1 due	-
6	26-Feb	Group 3 paper discussion	Group 4 - email paper choice and discussion questions by Friday midnight; Paper peer review	Paper draft 1 due
7	4-Mar	Group 4 paper discussion	Group 5 - email paper choice and discussion questions by Friday midnight	-
8	11-Mar	Group 5 paper discussion	Group 5 - email paper choice and discussion questions by Friday midnight	Paper peer review due
9	18-Mar	SPRING BREAK - NO CLASS	-	-
10	25-Mar	What makes a good presentation?	-	-
11	1-Apr	Student presentations 1,2	-	Paper draft 2 due
12	8-Apr	Student presentations 3,4	-	-
13	15-Apr	GREAT DAY - NO CLASS	-	-
14	22-Apr	Student presentations 5,6	-	-
15	29-Apr	Student presentations 7,8	-	-
16	6-May	Student presentations 9,10	-	Paper due

Jan 22

Topics:

Introduction, description of course assignments and requirements
Discussion about journals, types of scientific articles, and how to find articles
Form groups and discuss paper discussion date

Assignments for next week:

- Assignment 1: Read Paper #1 (by Wolfe-Simon et al.) and answer discussion questions
- Think about paper / presentation topic
- Think about optimal date for individual presentation (see available dates on this syllabus) and article presentation

Jan 29

Topics:

Article 1 Discussion questions due

Discussion of paper by Wolfe-Simon et al.
Sign up for article presentation and topic of interest presentation date

Assignments for next week:

- Read paper by Imachi et al and answer discussion questions
- Find at least three articles relating to your topic of interest (TOI) and write up citations for them.

Feb 05

Topics:

Article 2 discussion questions and citations for TOI due.

Discuss paper by Imachi et al.

Assignments for next week:

- Group 1 – email me a copy of the paper you chose and accompanying discussion questions by Friday the 7th at midnight

Feb 12

Topics

Topic of interest due

Group 1 – Paper presentation and discussion questions

Assignments for next week:

- Group 2 - email me copy of the paper you chose and accompanying discussion questions by Friday, Feb 14th at midnight

Feb 19

Topics

Group 2 – paper presentation and discussion questions

Assignments for next week:

- Group 3 - email me copy of the paper you chose and accompanying discussion questions by Friday, Feb 21st at midnight
- Everyone: Turn in first draft of paper next week, for peer review

Feb 26	<u>Topics</u> Turn in first draft of paper on TOI for peer review Group 3 – paper presentation and discussion questions <u>Assignments for next week:</u> • Group 4 - email me copy of the paper you chose and accompanying discussion questions by Friday, Feb 28 th at midnight
Mar 04	<u>Topics</u> Group 4 – paper presentation and discussion questions <u>Assignments for next week:</u> • Group 5 - email me copy of the paper you chose and accompanying discussion questions by Friday, Feb 28 th at midnight
Mar 11	<u>Topics</u> Turn in peer review comments on draft 1 Group 5 – paper presentation and discussion questions <u>Assignments for next week</u> • None!
Mar 18	Spring Break, no class
Mar 25	<u>Topics</u> What makes a good presentation? Bring your current version of your slides with you to class <u>Assignments for next week</u> • Assignment #8 (second draft) due next week.
Apr 01	TOI Paper draft 2 due to me Student presentations (#1, #2)
Apr 08	Student presentations (#3, #4)
Apr 15	Student presentations (#5, #6)
Apr 22	GREAT Day, no class
April 29	Student presentations (#7, #8)
May 6	TOI Final paper due Student presentations (#9, #10)