

BISC 549: SEMINAR IN INTEGRATIVE & EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY
FALL 2014

INSTRUCTOR: Casey Donovan, Ph.D.
Office Hours: by appointment; Email: donovan@usc.edu

MEETING TIME & LOCATION

09/03 – 12/5; scheduled for Wednesdays, 10:00 – 11:50am, PED 107a

TEXTBOOK (*recommended*)

Thomas Ogden & Israel Goldberg. Research Proposals – A guide to success. 3rd Ed., 2002

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This seminar in Integrative and Evolutionary Biology is part of a curriculum on professional development combining a workshop on proposal/grant-writing with exposure to current research in IEB. Over the course of the semester, each student will develop the initial portion of a proposal modeled after either a NIH or NSF proposal. Additionally, there will be 5 presentations by faculty and/or their graduate students representing the breadth of research in IEB.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Expose students to the breadth of research conducted in Integrative and Evolutionary Biology. To develop those skills essential to successful grant proposal writing, i.e. selecting significant research questions, hypothesis and aims development, targeted and critical literature review, research/experimental design, selection of test variables and appropriate methodologies, data collection and analysis, interpretation of results, understanding and defining limitations, preliminary data and anticipated results.

<u>GRADING</u>	Seminars (participation)	25%	
	Preliminary Written Assignments (3)	30%	
	Final Presentation of Proposal Components	20%	DUE 12/03/14
	Final Write-up of Proposal Components	25%	DUE 12/10/14

TENTATIVE LECTURE/PRESENTATION SCHEDULE

Sept 3	Introduction: Proposal development in the context of IEB
Sept 10	<i>BISC inter-sectional seminar (Sept 12, 12-1PM; RRI 101)</i>
Sept 17	Overall structure and development of grant proposals: Electronic Resources a) http://grants.nih.gov/grants/oer.htm b) www.nsf.gov/funding/
Sept 24	Research question: Specific aims and hypotheses (<i>Ogden & Goldberg, ch 5</i>)
Oct 1	<i>IEB Seminar #1: (Donovan group)</i>

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(Tentative Lecture Schedule, cont.)

- Oct 8 Rationale and background (Ogden & Goldberg, ch 6) (Specific aims draft due*)
- Oct 15 IEB Seminar #2 (Stanford Group)
- Oct 22 IEB Seminar #3 (Andrew Jensen: Turcotte group)
- Oct 29 Significance and innovation (Ogden & Goldberg, ch 6) (Rationale/Bkgd sample due*)
- Nov 5 IEB Seminar #4 (Ted Hsu: Kanoski group)
- Nov 12 Preliminary results – (Ogden & Goldberg, ch 7) (Significance draft due*)
- Nov 19 IEB Seminar #5 (Justin Hall: NSM & McNitt-Gray group)
- Nov 26 No class – Thanksgiving Holiday
- Dec 3 Final Slide Presentations*: Specific aims, rationale/background, and significance
- Dec 10 Final Write-up due* (can be sent as a PDF or DOC file)

Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems

Academic Conduct

Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in *SCampus* in Section 11, *Behavior Violating University Standards*<https://scampus.usc.edu/1100-behavior-violating-university-standards-and-appropriate-sanctions/>. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in *SCampus* and university policies on scientific misconduct, <http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct/>.

Discrimination, sexual assault, and harassment are not tolerated by the university. You are encouraged to report any incidents to the *Office of Equity and Diversity* <http://equity.usc.edu/> or to the *Department of Public Safety* <http://capsnet.usc.edu/department/department-public-safety/online-forms/contact-us>. This is important for the safety whole USC community. Another member of the university community – such as a friend, classmate, advisor, or faculty member – can help initiate the report, or can initiate the report on behalf of another person. *The Center for Women and Men* <http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/cwm/> provides 24/7 confidential support, and the sexual assault resource center webpage sarc@usc.edu describes reporting options and other resources.

Support Systems

A number of USC’s schools provide support for students who need help with scholarly writing. Check with your advisor or program staff to find out more. Students whose primary language is not English should check with the *American Language Institute* <http://dornsife.usc.edu/ali>, which sponsors courses and workshops specifically for international graduate students. *The Office of Disability Services and Programs* http://sait.usc.edu/academicsupport/centerprograms/dsp/home_index.html provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange the relevant accommodations. If an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible, *USC Emergency Information* <http://emergency.usc.edu/> will provide safety and other updates, including ways in which instruction will be continued by means of blackboard, teleconferencing, and other technology.