

Instructors:

Dr. Jed Fuhrman
Office Hours: TBD
Location: AHF 211
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Dr. Carly Kenkel
M 12:00-1:00p
AHF 231A
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**Meeting times & Location: TBD [100 min meeting per week]**

Website: <https://blackboard.usc.edu>

Course Description

Multi-instructor course designed to introduce students to the breadth and depth of faculty interests within the MEB Section of Biological Sciences and the Natural History Museum.

Prerequisites: Admission to the MBBO program or permission from the instructors.

Specific learning objectives. By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Understand the research agendas of select MEB faculty.
- 2) Demonstrate basic public speaking skills
- 3) Analyze a scientific presentation and provide constructive feed-back to peers
- 4) Evaluate a seminar-style scientific presentation for content and clarity.
- 5) Prepare and present a research seminar on their early graduate lab work.

Schedule of lecture topics. *Note that the schedule is subject change.* Any schedule changes will be discussed in class and posted on Blackboard.

Week of	Activity	Readings and Assignments
Jan 8	Course Introduction Speaking in public, pt. 1	Pre-meeting reading/video
Jan 15	Speaking in public pt. 2	Pre-meeting 3-min story assignment
Jan 22	Faculty Seminar	Response questions
Jan 29	Faculty Seminar	Response questions
Feb 5	Faculty Seminar	Response questions
Feb 12 (ASLO)	Faculty Seminar	Response questions
Feb 19	Student Lectures	Feedback survey
Feb 26	Student Lectures	Feedback survey
Mar 5	Student Lectures	Feedback survey
Mar 12/14	SPRING BREAK	
Mar 19	Student Lectures	Feedback survey
Mar 26	Student Lectures	Feedback survey
Apr 2	Student Lectures	Feedback survey
Apr 9	Faculty Seminar	Response questions
Apr 16	Faculty Seminar	Response questions
Apr 23	Faculty Seminar	Response questions

On-line Resources

Additional readings for specific lectures and/or links to on-line resources will be posted on Blackboard during the semester.

Course Policies

GRADES: Any document associated with grading may be photocopied by the instructional staff. The final letter grade will be determined by the total number of points as follows.

	Points possible	Percent
Public Speaking Exercise	10	5%
In-class contributions (2 points ea.)	30	15%
Faculty Lecture Responses (10 points ea.)	70	35%
Student Seminar Surveys (5 points ea.)	60	30%
Individual Seminar	30	15%
TOTAL	200	100%

IN-CLASS CONTRIBUTIONS: Good attendance is necessary but not sufficient to earn full marks for this component of the course grade. Students who earn top scores will participate in class discussions actively, thus helping lead their peers to think critically and analytically. This requires students to chime in, asking questions, and making relevant comments in response to the questions of others. Although contributions are important, students should refrain from monopolizing discussions and should aim to be succinct. The lowest in-class contribution score will be dropped, accommodating one unplanned absence with no grade penalty and no questions asked.

COMMUNICATION: Email is the preferred form of communication with the instructors outside of class. Responses can be expected within 48 hours, though there may be an additional delay over weekends/holidays. If an in-person meeting is desired, please utilize office hours or email a request to set up an alternate meeting time.

PLANNED ABSENCES: Requests for absences should be made by email to the Instructors at least 2 weeks in advance, and preferably as early in the semester as possible. If the absence is approved, a reasonable accommodation will be provided, which may include coordinating remote participation or a make-up assignment.

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 Part B, Section 11, “Behavior Violating University Standards” policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b. 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>.

Support Systems:

Student Counseling Services (SCS) – (213) 740-7711 – 24/7 on call

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention. engemannshc.usc.edu/counseling

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline – 1 (800) 273-8255

Provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org

Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) – (213) 740-4900 – 24/7 on call

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm. engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp

Sexual Assault Resource Center

For more information about how to get help or help a survivor, rights, reporting options, and additional resources, visit the website: sarc.usc.edu

Office of Equity and Diversity (OED)/Title IX Compliance – (213) 740-5086

Works with faculty, staff, visitors, applicants, and students around issues of protected class. equity.usc.edu

Bias Assessment Response and Support

Incidents of bias, hate crimes and microaggressions need to be reported allowing for appropriate investigation and response. studentaffairs.usc.edu/bias-assessment-response-support

The Office of Disability Services and Programs

Provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange relevant accommodations. dsp.usc.edu

Student Support and Advocacy – (213) 821-4710

Assists students and families in resolving complex issues adversely affecting their success as a student EX: personal, financial, and academic. studentaffairs.usc.edu/ssa

Diversity at USC

Information on events, programs and training, the Diversity Task Force (including representatives for each school), chronology, participation, and various resources for students. diversity.usc.edu

USC Emergency Information

Provides safety and other updates, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible. emergency.usc.edu

USC Department of Public Safety – UPC: (213) 740-4321 – *HSC:* (323) 442-1000 – 24-hour emergency or to report a crime.

Provides overall safety to USC community. dps.usc.edu