

## **BISC 542 Molecular and Computational Biology Program – Seminar in Molecular Biology Syllabus and Class Schedule, Spring 2020**

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Class time: Thursdays, 4:00-4:50 PM RRI Rm. 101

Description: This is a graduate-level class for the Molecular and Computational Biology PhD program, required for students in years 1-2. Students give a research seminar on their rotation or PhD research topic and receive a feedback for improving their presentations.

Objective: To provide experience and training in giving scientific research presentations.

**FORMAT:** Students will be divided into small evaluation groups on the first day of class and the speaker schedule will be completed. Second year students are expected give their talks at the beginning of the semester allowing the first year students to learn from these talks and acquire more experimental results during their rotation.

Talks will begin on January 30. Students will each pick up two evaluation forms upon entering the classroom. During each class **two** students will deliver a talk, **10** minutes for first year students, **15** minutes for second year students; plus 5 minutes for questions. Immediately after each talk all students will fill out the form to provide written feedback to the speaker for improving their presentation. The members of each group will then briefly discuss their evaluations amongst themselves and one of the group will orally present a summary of their group's comments to the class. Immediately afterwards all the evaluation forms will be given to the speaker.

**PRESENTATION CONTENT:** All presentations must be on the topic of the students' own lab research project(s) (i.e., no journal articles). Even if you have don't have results, first year students are still expected to be able to give a 10-minute talk of introduction, experimental design and future directions of their projects. All talks must include title and affiliations, a brief background, the hypothesis or question being asked, results and conclusions. Methods should be explained. All text must be *original*, or if a quote; the original citation must be given. All figures must be *original*, or if not, the *primary reference* must be given. Under no circumstances is it allowed to cite "WIKIPEDIA" or to give URLs as citations for material that originates in a primary research article. For other important suggestions see the **Handout** posted on BlackBoard.

**ATTENDANCE:** All students must present to get credit for the class. You are allowed *only 2* absences for the semester. If you anticipate any conflict with your scheduled talk, let Norm and Uluwehi in the office ([baldemor@usc.edu](mailto:baldemor@usc.edu)) know immediately so that we can re-schedule it.

\*\*\*NOTE:

- All students are required to email their advisor and invite them to the presentation. Send your email by the Monday preceding the presentation date, and cc Norm and Uluwehi. Attendance by your advisor and committee members is not required, but is encouraged. Also send the title to Uluwehi by Monday AM (cc. Norm) the week of your talk for distribution of flyers.
- The presenter is expected to bring everything needed for their presentation (pointer, adapter, computer) and test that the presentation works beforehand. Pointers/adapters can be borrowed from the MCB office, but need to be returned by 9 am the following day. If you are returning these items when the office is closed, you can leave them in Uluwehi's mail box (RRI 201B).

-Class starts promptly at 4 PM. Late-arrivals will be considered as absences. You are *not* allowed to

<b>Speakers Schedule Spring 2020</b>			
<b>Date</b>	<b>Supervisor</b>	<b>Speaker 1</b>	<b>Speaker 2</b>
<b>Jan. 16</b>	Norm Arnheim	<b>Sign-up day</b>	<b>Sign-up day</b>
<b>Jan. 23</b>	Norm Arnheim	Bad Slides Talk	
<b>Jan. 30</b>	Steve Finkel		
<b>Feb. 6</b>	Norm Arnheim		
<b>Feb. 13</b>	John Tower		
<b>Feb. 20</b>	Xiaojiang Chen		
<b>Feb. 27</b>	Caleb Finch		
<b>March 5</b>	Peter Kuehn		
<b>March 12</b>	Norm Arnheim		
<b>March 19</b>	No Class	<b>No Class</b>	<b>No Class</b>
<b>March 26</b>	Norm Arnheim		
<b>April 2</b>	Fabien Pinaud		
<b>April 9</b>	Norm Arnheim		
<b>April 16</b>	Norm Arnheim		
<b>April 23</b>	Norm Arnheim		
<b>April 30</b>	Norm Arnheim		

exit the classroom without permission.

GRADING: Class is credit/no credit. Credit requires regular attendance, once/year presentation, and fulfillment of the above-stated requirements (returning evaluation sheets, participating in group discussions, inviting your advisor, sending the title of your presentation in advance).

\* Academic integrity policies of the university will be strictly followed. Infractions can result in severe penalties. See SCampus for these policies.

\* It may be necessary to make some adjustments in the syllabus during the semester.

\* Disability: Students requesting academic accommodations based on a disability are required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP when adequate documentation is filed. Please be sure the letter is delivered to Norm as early in the semester as possible. DSP is open Mon-Fri, 8:30-5:00. The office is in Student Union 301 and their phone number is 740-0776.

### Instructions for Faculty helping with Bisc 542 Spring 2020

- 1) Go to RRI 301 before class and pick up evaluation forms.
- 2) Give each student two forms before the talks begin.
- 3) Sit and listen to the first 10 or 15 minute talk (+5 minutes for questions).
- 4) Allow a private discussion among each of the previously assigned student groups about the quality of the speaker's presentation.
- 5) Listen to a summary evaluation given by one member of each student group.
- 6) Collect the evaluation forms and give them to the first student speaker. Also make very brief comments if necessary.
- 7) Repeat steps 3-6 for the second talk