

BISC 593 Practicum in Teaching Biological Sciences

Instructors: Rory Spence, PhD,

Office hours: by appt.

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Time and Place

Wednesdays, 1-3pm, Zoom

TEXT: not applicable

I will provide supplemental reading and visual information for you on Blackboard.

I. Learning outcomes

1. Develop an appreciation for pedagogical methods.
2. Develop the ability to properly apply pedagogical methods.
3. Develop the ability to understand teaching technology specific to the sciences at USC.
4. Improve skills for communicating ideas, both orally and in writing.

II. Course Description

This is a 2-credit TA training course designed specifically for graduate students in the Molecular and Computational sections of the Department of Biological Sciences, USC Dana and David Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences. One of the main goals of the course is to help students to become thoughtful and inspiring teachers, encouraging not just their immediate success in the classroom, but their long-term development as teachers. In addition to the basic teaching skills, the course will also focus on specific challenges and strategies in teaching Molecular Biology and Computational Biology. Concurrent registration or prior completion of this course is a condition of being assigned a first Teaching Assistantship in Molecular and Computational Biology.

III. Grading

This course will be taught Credit/No Credit. Each student will be assigned to give more than one presentation (specific number depends on the students enrolled in the class) that will be critiqued by the rest of the class. The instructor will lead and coordinate the critique discussion. At the end of discussion, an evaluation form will be filled out to give the presenter feed back on the strengths and weaknesses of the presentation and suggestions of improvement. Grades will be based on quality of presentation and class participation.

IV. SCHEDULE

Week 1, Course introduction Prof. Peter Calabrese

Week 2, Teaching technology

Weeks 3, Q&A with Experienced TA's

Weeks 4-13, Student presentations, followed by class discussion

V. 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>.

VI. 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