GERO 592 - Multidisciplinary Research Seminar in Aging

Time: Tuesdays 9:00 am – 11:50 am - This is an Online Blackboard/Zoom Course

Course Instructor
Kelvin J. A. Davies, Ph.D., D.Sc.
Distinguished Professor of Bio-Gerontology, Leonard Davis School of Gerontology;
Distinguished Professor of Molecular & Computational Biology, Dornsife College;
Distinguished Professor of Biochemistry & Molecular Medicine, Keck School of Medicine.

Phone: (213) 740-4200
Email: kelvin@usc.edu
Office hours by appointment.
*Email is the best way to get a hold of me

Course Description
A research seminar (colloquium) for doctoral and post-doctoral trainees aiming to introduce current topics in gerontology.

Learning Objectives
The primary aim of this seminar is to provide students access to cutting edge research and to interact with leaders in the gerontology research field. The main goal of this course is to introduce students to the concepts of molecular and genetic regulation of healthy aging, lifespan, and age-related diseases.

Learning Strategies
The learning objectives will be accomplished by means of several strategies, including, but not limited to, the following:
- attending weekly colloquia lectures
- participating in discussions following each colloquium
- preparing a written critique following each colloquium

Prerequisites
The only pre-requisite for this course is scientific curiosity. Students are not expected to know anything specific about molecular biology or genetics. This class is not meant to teach advanced molecular biology or genetics such classes are already in existence). The emphasis in this course is on practical implementation of scientific concepts.

Resources:
Web page: A class website will be setup on Blackboard containing information about the course: syllabus, laboratory handouts, grades, miscellaneous information about weekly class activities, and an email directory of all people in the class. Use it as much as you find it useful. The web page can be accessed through the main stem https://Blackboard.usc.edu.

Assessment
Grades are based on three scores:
1) Attendance at each colloquium = 10% of final grade,
2) Discussions following each colloquium = 45% of final grade,
3) A written critique following each colloquium = 45% of final grade.

Schedule of Colloquia Presentations

The schedule is currently being finalized but this is what we know so far near the end of December 2020. All speaker slots will be finalized by the start of the Spring 2021 semester.

Date	Speaker	Affiliation
January 21, 2020	James Raymo, Ph.D.	Princeton University
January 28, 2021		
February 4, 2021	Judith Kasper, Ph.D.	
February 11, 2021		
February 18, 2021		
February 25, 2021		
March 4, 2021	John Newman, MD, Ph.D.	Buck Institute
March 11, 2021		
March 18, 2021	Thelma Mielenz, Ph.D.	Colombia University
March 25, 2021		
April 1, 2021	Dudley Lamming, Ph.D	
April 8, 2021	Elsa Bou Ghanem, Ph.D.	
April 15, 2021		
April 22, 2021	**USC Wellness Day - no colloquium**	
April 29, 2021	Ruth Masterson Creber, Ph.D. M.Sc., RN	

Statement on Academic Conduct, Diversity & Inclusion, Emergency Preparedness, and Support Systems

Students with Disabilities: (the information below was provided by the office of the Provost) Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP)each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure that the letter is delivered to the instructor as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located on campus in STU301 and is open from 8:30 am -5:00 pm Monday through Friday. The phone number for DSP is 213-740-0776 email: ability@usc.edu; web address: http://sait.usc.edu/academicsupport/centerprograms/dsp/home_index.html

Policies and Class Etiquette:
Students are expected to be courteous to others and arrive to class, in person or on-line, on time. *Students must turn off cellular phones and pagers during class* as well as any other electronic device that may ring or otherwise disrupt class. Personal laptops may be used for note-taking but not for 'recreational' purposes during class time. Assignments turned in late for any reason will incur a deduction of 10% of the total point value for the assignment for each day past the due date. Completion of all course readings and assignments and active participation during class discussions is expected of all students.

Statement on Academic Integrity:
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. USC seeks to maintain an optimal learning

environment. General principles of academic honesty include the concept of respect for the intellectual property of others, the expectation that individual work will be submitted unless otherwise allowed by the instructor. All students are expected to understand and abide by these principles. SCampus, the Student Guidebook, contains the University Student Conduct Code (see University Governance, Section 11.00), while the recommended sanctions are located in Appendix A.   Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in *SCampus* in Part B, Section 11, "Behavior Violating University standards" https://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

Statement of Diversity & Inclusion
The USC Leonard Davis School of Gerontology is committed to creating an inclusive classroom environment that values the diversity of all its members. The School is committed to providing a purposefully inclusive community where all members and visitors are free from all intolerant behavior (including but not limited to harassment, verbal or written abuse, threats, ridicule, or intimidation). We encourage all members within our community to embrace and learn from the diversity within our classroom, school, and university.

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

Emergency Preparedness/Course Continuity in a Crisis
In case of a declared emergency if travel to campus is not feasible, USC executive leadership will announce an electronic way for instructors to teach students in their residence halls or homes using a combination of Blackboard, teleconferencing, and other technologies. See the university's site on Campus Safety and Emergency Preparedness.

Support Systems
Student Health Counseling Services - (213) 740-7711 – 24/7 on call
engemannshc.usc.edu/counseling
Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention.

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - 1 (800) 273-8255 – 24/7 on call
suicidepreventionlifeline.org
Free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) - (213) 740-4900 – 24/7 on call
engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp
Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm.

Office of Equity and Diversity (OED) | Title IX - (213) 740-5086
equity.usc.edu, titleix.usc.edu
Information about how to get help or help a survivor of harassment or discrimination, rights of protected classes, reporting options, and additional resources for students, faculty, staff, visitors, and applicants. The university prohibits discrimination or harassment based on the following protected characteristics: race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, physical disability, medical condition, mental disability, marital status, pregnancy, veteran status, genetic information, and any other characteristic which may be specified in applicable laws and governmental regulations.

Bias Assessment Response and Support - (213) 740-2421
studentaffairs.usc.edu/bias-assessment-response-support
Avenue to report incidents of bias, hate crimes, and microaggressions for appropriate investigation and response.

The Office of Disability Services and Programs - (213) 740-0776
dsp.usc.edu
Support and accommodations for students with disabilities. Services include assistance in providing readers/notetakers/interpreters, special accommodations for test taking needs, assistance with architectural barriers, assistive technology, and support for individual needs.

USC Support and Advocacy - (213) 821-4710
studentaffairs.usc.edu/ssa
Assists students and families in resolving complex personal, financial, and academic issues adversely affecting their success as a student.

Diversity at USC - (213) 740-2101
diversity.usc.edu
Information on events, programs and training, the Provost's Diversity and Inclusion Council, Diversity Liaisons for each academic school, chronology, participation, and various resources for students.

USC Emergency - UPC: (213) 740-4321, HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24/7 on call
dps.usc.edu, emergency.usc.edu
Emergency assistance and avenue to report a crime. Latest updates regarding safety, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible.

USC Department of Public Safety - UPC: (213) 740-6000, HSC: (323) 442-120 – 24/7 on call
dps.usc.edu
Non-emergency assistance or information.