QBIO 593 Practicum in Teaching Quantitative and Computational Biology

Units: 2
Fall 2022 Semester
Lecture: Tuesdays, 12:30 – 2:10
Location: TBD

Instructor: Peter Calabrese
Office: RRI 404B
Office Hours: TBD
Contact Info: petercal@usc.edu, 213-740-2434
Course Description
This is a 2-credit TA training course designed specifically for graduate students in Quantitative and Computational Biology. 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 Quantitative and Computational Biology including teaching Mathematics, Statistics, Computer Science, and Biology. Concurrent registration or prior completion of this course is a condition of being assigned a first Teaching Assistantship.

Learning Objectives
Students will work on becoming better teachers, including preparing Powerpoint slides, boardwork, public speaking, involving students in discussions, and answering questions.

Prerequisite(s): none
Co-Requisite(s): none
Concurrent Enrollment: none
Recommended Preparation: none

Description and Assessment of Assignments
This course will be taught Credit/No Credit. Throughout the semester, each student will give multiple presentations (the specific number will depend on the number of students enrolled in the class that semester) that will be critiqued by the rest of the class. The instructor will lead and coordinate the critique discussion. At the end of the discussion, all the students will fill out an evaluation form to give the presenter feedback on the strengths and weaknesses of their presentation and suggestions for improvement. Grades will be based on the quality of presentation and class participation.

Grading Breakdown

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Tool (assignments)</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>% of Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Presentations</td>
<td></td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td></td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
<td>100</td>
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Course Schedule: A Weekly Breakdown

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topics/Daily Activities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Introduction, Discussion of good and bad teaching practices</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Question and Answer period with experienced TAs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weeks 3 - 15</td>
<td>Student presentations followed by class discussion</td>
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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, policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct.

Support Systems:

Counseling and Mental Health - (213) 740-9355 – 24/7 on call studenthealth.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) 740-9355(WELL), press “0” after hours – 24/7 on call studenthealth.usc.edu/sexual-assault
Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm.

Office of Equity and Diversity (OED) - (213) 740-5086 | Title IX – (213) 821-8298 equity.usc.edu, titleix.usc.edu
Information about how to get help or help someone affected by harassment or discrimination, rights of protected classes, reporting options, and additional resources for students, faculty, staff, visitors, and applicants.

Reporting Incidents of Bias or Harassment - (213) 740-5086 or (213) 821-8298 usc-advocate.symplicity.com/care_report
Avenue to report incidents of bias, hate crimes, and microaggressions to the Office of Equity and Diversity | Title IX for appropriate investigation, supportive measures, 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 Campus Support and Intervention - (213) 821-4710
campussupport.usc.edu
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.