

BISC 544 Advanced Reading in Molecular Biology (2 units or 1 unit depending on the section)

Meetings:

Tuesday 4pm-4:50pm (Journal club), RRI 321

Friday 12pm-12:50pm (Seminar), RRI 101

Course director: Xianrui Cheng

Office: RRI 119B

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Course Objectives: The course objectives are to advance the training of molecular biology PhD students in reading primary journal articles. Emphasis will be on honing critical reading skills.

Format:

1. General organization:

- The course director will organize the weekly Molecular and Computational Biology (MCB) seminar series.
- The course director will recruit a faculty member each week to run a journal club.
- For the weeks when a MCB speaker will visit, the host for the speaker will run the journal club, and the paper will be from the speaker. Interested students can then meet with the speaker, ideally at shared lunch.
- If the faculty member hosting the seminar speaker has already run one journal club that semester, then running additional journal clubs is optional, but encouraged.

2. Specific sections:

The course offers two sections for two mutually exclusive sets of students.

Section 1 (available only to first-year PhD students, 2 units)

1. Pre-seminar journal club

- Students meet for weekly journal clubs discussing relevant work by the upcoming MCB seminar speaker.
- Participation in journal club activities is required for receiving credit for this section.

2. MCB seminar

- Students are required to attend the weekly MCB seminar to receive credit for this section.
- Attendance will be taken via sign-up sheet at each seminar.
- Each student should submit a summary of the seminar to the course director.

Section 2 (available only to second-year or more senior PhD students, 1 unit)

1. MCB seminar

- Students are required to attend the weekly MCB seminar to receive credit for this section.
- Attendance will be taken via sign-up sheet at each seminar.

Grading: Credit/no credit.

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:

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/ssu

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.