



BISC 529: Seminar in Marine Biology

Units: 1

Spring 2024—Tuesdays at 11:30-12:30

Location: Torrey Webb Room

Instructors:

Melissa Guzman

Julia Schwartzman

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Course Description

This course accompanies the MEB section's Tuesday Seminar Series. Going to seminars can be very helpful for your own science, but it's not just sitting and listening! This course is about getting in the habit of listening actively and with an inquisitive mind and coming up with good questions.

Learning Objectives

After this course, you will be able to:

- Meet the greater network of scientists who are part of the fields represented in MEB.
- Ask a great seminar question.
- Efficiently assimilate information from a talk.
- Identify presentation styles that you can apply in your own scholarship.

Description and Assessments

You will be asked to submit a reflection on Blackboard for each talk that you attend. The reflection asks you to respond to 4 prompts:

1. In one sentence, what was the talk about?
2. Why is this a problem people care about?
3. What was a major finding?
4. Come up with a question for the speaker (you don't have to ask it, but this is a good habit to get into)

Grading Breakdown

Assessment Tool	Points	% of Grade
Reflections	100 (7 each)	100
TOTAL	100	100

This course is credit/no credit. There are 15 seminars this semester (May 14 is an additional seminar). Attend 12 and get full credit for your reflection, and you will receive credit for the course. That is, you can miss up to 3 seminars, assuming that you receive full credit for your submitted reflection.

Reflection Submission Policy

Submitting your reflection is how we will keep track of the seminars you attend. **Submit reflections 48 h after the date of the seminar (i.e. by Thursday at noon)** to receive credit. There are too many folks in the class to keep track of late submissions. If you submit late, or don't email in advance about an absence, we can't give you credit.

Reflections are meant to be a short exercise! If you find yourself writing paragraphs, think about how to condense/synthesize.

Policy on sharing feedback for trainee talks

This spring, you will hear from outside speakers and trainees in our program. For the trainee talks, we will share your feedback and questions for the speakers after their talk. Your feedback will be anonymous. For these talks, we will ask you to note one thing the speaker did well and one thing to improve.

Policy on absences

Please email Julia or Melissa at least 2 days before the talk if you know you can't make it. We will ask you to attend a different seminar that happens on campus for every Tuesday seminar you will miss. Note that this needs to be a research seminar, and please let us know what you are going to! Other BISC sections, the Natural History Museum, The Center for Ecological and Evolutionary Diversity, Wrigley, Earth Sciences, and many other groups on campus have great seminars every week. Consider attending ones that look interesting regardless of if it's for this class ☺

Seminar etiquette

1. Please show up a couple minutes before noon so we can start on time.
2. We expect you to attend in person if the talk is in person, unless you have a reasonable excuse to not be there, such as if you are sick or traveling.
3. If you are attending remotely, make sure you are muted when you sign on. It is polite to turn on your camera at the beginning and end of the talk, especially if you would like to ask a question.
4. When you are in a seminar, avoid looking at your phone or working on your computer- you are there to give your attention to the speaker.

Course schedule- all seminars are at noon on Tuesday in the Torrey Webb room unless otherwise indicated.

Week	Date	Speaker	Institution
1	January 9, 2024	No seminar	

2	January 16, 2024	Anna, Tina	MEB student
3	January 23, 2024	Wei Qin	University of Oklahoma
4	January 30, 2024	Catie, Jenna	MEB student
5	February 6, 2024	Stacy Krueger-Hadfield	University of Alabama at Birmingham
6	February 13, 2024	Ran, Daniel, Danny	MEB student
7	February 20, 2024	Jordan, Inessa	MEB student
8	February 27, 2024	Anjali, Jake	MEB student
9	March 5, 2024	Colleen Petrik	Scripps Oceanography
10	March 12, 2024	Spring break	
11	March 19, 2024	Alexis, Chuankai	MEB student
12	March 26, 2024	TBD	
13	April 2, 2024	TBD	
14	April 9, 2024	Ned Ruby, Margaret McFall-Ngai	Carnegie Science
15	April 16, 2024	Matt Forister	University of Nevada Reno
16	April 23, 2024	Stilianos Louca	University of Oregon
17	April 30, 2024	Wally Fulwieller	Boston University
18	May 14, 2024	Mara Frielich	Brown University

Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems

Academic Integrity:

The University of Southern California is a learning community committed to developing successful scholars and researchers dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge and the dissemination of ideas. Academic misconduct, which includes any act of dishonesty in the production or submission of academic work, comprises the integrity of the person who commits the act and can impugn the perceived integrity of the entire university community. It stands in opposition to the university's mission to research, educate, and contribute productively to our community and the world.

All students are expected to submit assignments that represent their own original work, and that have been prepared specifically for the course or section for which they have been submitted. You may not submit work written by others or "recycle" work prepared for other courses without obtaining written permission from the instructor(s).

Other violations of academic integrity include, but are not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, fabrication (e.g., falsifying data), collusion, knowingly assisting others in acts of academic dishonesty, and any act that gains or is intended to gain an unfair academic advantage.

The impact of academic dishonesty is far-reaching and is considered a serious offense against the university. All incidences of academic misconduct will be reported to the Office of Academic Integrity and could result in outcomes such as failure on the assignment, failure in the course, suspension, or even expulsion from the university.

For more information about academic integrity see [the student handbook](#) or the [Office of Academic Integrity's website](#), and university policies on [Research and Scholarship Misconduct](#).

Please ask your instructor if you are unsure what constitutes unauthorized assistance on an exam or assignment, or what information requires citation and/or attribution.

Students and Disability Accommodations:

USC welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. The Office of Student Accessibility Services (OSAS) is responsible for the determination of appropriate accommodations for students who encounter disability-related barriers. Once a student has completed the OSAS process (registration, initial appointment, and submitted documentation) and accommodations are determined to be reasonable and appropriate, a Letter of Accommodation (LOA) will be available to generate for each course. The LOA must be given to each course instructor by the student and followed up with a discussion. This should be done as early in the semester as possible as accommodations are not retroactive. More information can be found at osas.usc.edu. You may contact OSAS at (213) 740-0776 or via email at osasfrontdesk@usc.edu.

Support Systems:

[Counseling and Mental Health](#) - (213) 740-9355 – 24/7 on call

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention.

[988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline](#) - 988 for both calls and text messages – 24/7 on call

The 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline (formerly known as the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline) provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, across the United States. The Lifeline is comprised of a national network of over 200 local crisis centers, combining custom local care and resources with national standards and best practices. The new, shorter phone number makes it easier for people to remember and access mental health crisis services (though the previous 1 (800) 273-8255 number will continue to function indefinitely) and represents a continued commitment to those in crisis.

[Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services \(RSVP\)](#) - (213) 740-9355(WELL) – 24/7 on call

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender- and power-based harm (including sexual assault, intimate partner violence, and stalking).

[Office for Equity, Equal Opportunity, and Title IX \(EEO-TIX\)](#) - (213) 740-5086

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

Avenue to report incidents of bias, hate crimes, and microaggressions to the Office for Equity, Equal Opportunity, and Title for appropriate investigation, supportive measures, and response.

[The Office of Student Accessibility Services \(OSAS\)](#) - (213) 740-0776

OSAS ensures equal access for students with disabilities through providing academic accommodations and auxiliary aids in accordance with federal laws and university policy.

[USC Campus Support and Intervention](#) - (213) 740-0411

Assists students and families in resolving complex personal, financial, and academic issues adversely affecting their success as a student.

[Diversity, Equity and Inclusion](#) - (213) 740-2101

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

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) 442-1200 – 24/7 on call

Non-emergency assistance or information.

[Office of the Ombuds](#) - (213) 821-9556 (UPC) / (323-442-0382 (HSC)

A safe and confidential place to share your USC-related issues with a University Ombuds who will work with you to explore options or paths to manage your concern.

[Occupational Therapy Faculty Practice](#) - (323) 442-2850 or otfp@med.usc.edu

Confidential Lifestyle Redesign services for USC students to support health promoting habits and routines that enhance quality of life and academic performance.