

SEMINAR: Molecular Biology SYLLABUS

Biol 490 Sect 3 – Fall 2016

Instructor: Dr. Diane Caporale
Office: 437 TNR Building
Phone: (715) 346-3922

Email: dcaporal@uwsp.edu
D2L: Biol 490 Sect 3
Office Hours: Tues & Thur 2-3pm
or Monday by appointment

Required Book: Pechenik, J. 2009, A Short Guide to Writing About Biology, 8th ed.
To be purchased online for under \$20 at [College Textbooks Central](#).

Required Manual: Caporale, D. 2013. Writing in Biology for Biol 490 Seminar. Will be handed out in class.

Class Meetings: Tues & Thur @ 12:00 – 12:50 pm; SCI A208

Course Objectives: Students will be introduced to the aims and format of biological writing in molecular biology. This will help students to:

- understand the writing tasks and challenges unique to the biological sciences.
- learn how to think creatively about biology while writing clearly, accurately, and concisely.
- become more prepared for entering the job market or graduate school.

Learning Outcomes: Upon completing this requirement, students will be able to:

- Locate, critically read, synthesize and discuss the primary literature dealing with multiple aspects of molecular biology,
- Apply discipline-specific standards of oral and written communication to compose an articulate, grammatically correct, and organized presentation/piece of writing with properly documented and supported ideas, evidence, and information suitable to the topic, purpose, and audience,
- Critique their own and others' writing/oral presentations to provide effective and useful feedback to improve their communication.

Grading:

Assignment	% Points
Curriculum Vitae	5
Cover Letter or Essay	5
Article Summary & Critique	10
Oral Presentation & PPT of Article S&C	5, 10
Outline of Review Paper	5
Review Paper	20
Oral Presentation & PPT of Review Paper	10, 10
10 Critiques of Oral Presentations	10
Critiques of CV, Letter, & Review paper; Summaries	10

Grading Scale:

A =	93 – 100 pt	B- =	80 – 82.5 pt	D+ =	67 – 69.5 pt
A- =	90 – 92.5 pt	C+ =	77 – 79.5 pt	D =	60 – 66.5 pt
B+ =	87 – 89.5 pt	C =	73 – 76.5 pt	F =	< 60
B =	83 – 86.5 pt	C- =	70 – 72.5 pt		

Attendance Policy: I strongly recommend you attend every seminar. Missing any class will put you at a distinct disadvantage when doing writing assignments. Students who must miss a writing assignment deadline due to religious observances or participation in university sanctioned events should notify me within the first 3 weeks of the beginning of class, so makeup arrangements can be made. The only other valid excuses for missing a deadline are: death in the family, violent illness, or accident. In such cases: (1) you must provide evidence of some kind (eg. note from health center), **and** (2) you must reschedule **within 24 hrs** after the date of the deadline.

E-mail: Students are expected to check their University e-mail regularly for information from the university and/or instructor. If you are using an e-mail account other than your campus account to contact me, be sure your full name is included in the message.

D2L: Examples of each of the assignments will be posted on D2L for your perusal. Schedules for each of the oral presentations will also be posted. Each article will be linked to the first oral presentation schedule, for the class to read ahead of time.

Electronic Devices: Cell phones should be turned **off** and **not** be displayed during class, lab or exam. No other communication or musical devices are allowed. Students needing a foreign language dictionary during exams may use one with permission from instructor.

Academic Misconduct: You are responsible for the honest completion and representation of your work and for the respect of others' academic endeavors. Any act of cheating, plagiarism, or academic misconduct is subject to the penalties outlined in UWS Chapter 14.

Please refer to this link for more info: <http://www.uwsp.edu/centers/rights/RRBOOKLET8-2005-06.pdf>

Required Comprehensive Biology Exam: Satisfactory completion of this 490 course requires the completion of the Biology Department's comprehensive exam. **Test scores are used to compare class averages among various populations of biology majors to assess general student learning. Scores will not be made available to you nor your instructor and will have no bearing on grades.** However, your 490 grade will be withheld until the exam is taken. The exam **will take approximately 60 minutes** and will be offered on: (Please attend one of these times)

Wed December 7 and Thur December 8 from 6-7pm in TNR 120.

If you cannot attend either of these examination times, please contact Dr. Krista Slemmons, kslemmon@uwsp.edu or Nancy Shefferly, nsheffer@uwsp.edu to schedule an alternate time.

MOLECULAR BIOLOGY: SEMINAR SCHEDULE

Week	Date	Topic	Book Ch (Guide pp)	Assignment
1	Sept 6	Introduction, Student Information	1, 2 (2-4)	Find a job listing or graduate/professional program to apply for
	8	Writing a Curriculum Vitae (resume)	13 (49-55)	Compile your CV
2	13	Critiquing CVs	13	Due (9/13): CV Revise CV
	15	Writing an Application Letter & Essay	13 (56-57)	Due (9/15): Revised CV Write your application letter or essay
3	20	Critiquing Application Letters	(57)	Due (9/20): Application Letter / Essay Revise application letter
	22	Careers in Molecular Biology, Being Interviewed (volunteers)	(58-63)	
4	27	How to Read, Summarize & Critique a Journal Article	3, 7 (5-8)	Due (9/27): Revised Applic. Letter / Essay Find a Recent Journal Article relating to your chosen topic
	29	Common Grammar & Spelling Errors	6 (28-33)	
5	Oct 4	How to Write a Review Paper & Outline	8 (9-16)	Due (10/4): email pdf of Journal Article
	6	Criteria for Oral Presentations	12 (34-40)	
6	11	Summary & Critique Examples	(40)	Due: email PPT 1 DAY before presentation
	13	No Seminar		Oral Presentations will be critiqued by each student during seminars
7	18	Oral Presentation / Critiques		Due (10/25): Reference section of Review Paper (reference section returned – revise & work on outline)
	20	Oral Presentation / Critiques		
8	25	Oral Presentation / Critiques		Due (11/1): Outline of Review Paper (outline returned)
	27	Oral Presentation / Critiques		
9	Nov 1	Oral Presentation / Critiques		continue to work on review paper
	3	Oral Presentation / Critiques		
10	8 10	No Seminars		Due (11/15): 1st Draft of Review Paper revise review paper
11	15	Critique 1 st Draft of Review Paper		Due (11/22): Revised Review Paper Due: email PPT 1 day before presentation finalize review paper
	17	No Seminar		
12	22	Critique Revised Review Paper		Due (11/29): Final Review Paper
	24	Thanksgiving Break		
13	29	Oral Presentation / Summaries		Exit Exam Required Choose one of the following dates: Wed, Dec 7 or Thur Dec 8 6-7 pm TNR 120
	Dec 1	Oral Presentation / Summaries		
14	6	Oral Presentation / Summaries		
	8	Oral Presentation / Summaries		
15	13	2 Oral Presentations / Summaries		
	15	Evaluation of Major		