Course Syllabus

SENIOR PRESENTATION-BIOL 4292

Summer I 2015

Instructor: Dr. Bart Cook III
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Office Hours: 7:00-8:00 am MWF; 10:00-11:00 am F or by appointment

Course Meeting time: 10:00-10:50 am – MW

Lecture text: None

A seminar represents one means whereby knowledge can be exchanged between biologists. Although this undergraduate seminar will be held in an informal manner, each student is expected to conduct himself/herself as a professional.

I. COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To increase your knowledge in a specific area of biology and to communicate this information in a concise and orderly manner to your fellow students.

2. To increase your professional competency in the areas of literature research, organization, and visual aids.

3. To develop the ability and confidence in yourself that is required in orally presenting your views and knowledge concerning biological subjects.

4. To develop your skills in objectively evaluating the presentation/presenter of scientific information.

II. REQUIREMENTS:

1. Each student will submit a typed page containing the proposed title and subject matter for his/her presentation. This page will be submitted within one week following the first seminar class meeting so that the topic may be approved and schedule conflicts resolved.

2. Each student will conduct a 15-20 minute presentation on a subject confined to the specific area of the chosen seminar topic. The presentation should follow these guidelines.

   A. Sufficient abstracts of your talk should be available for your audience. The abstracts should be titled and contain two full bibliographies for (1) cited biological literature and (2) visual aid material.
B. The presentation should contain sufficient references to the cited literature both guide and inform the listener.

C. The presentation should employ visual aides to the extent that points are clarified.

**III. Grading (see evaluation form attached)**

1. Attendance: You are obligated by enrollment to **attend** each and **every** seminar as both an audience member and as a peer evaluator (see E above). Arrive to class early. Once the speaker begins the presentation, late students will be counted absent.

2. Instructor evaluation of presentation: You will be graded on your depth of knowledge, organization, ability to answer questions, employment of proper visual aides, and appearance. The suggested time for each presentation is 15-20 minutes with a deduction from the students overall raw course grade one (1) full letter for presentation of less than fifteen (15) minutes.

3. Intellectual curiosity: As a listener your responsibility is to ask questions but not in the order to make your presence known, but rather to clarify or expand upon a given point in the speaker's presentation.

4. The final grade in seminar is determined from a mean in which the instructors’ evaluation counts 2/3 and the peer evaluation means (minus the high and low for each mean calculation) counts 1/3. Adjustments to the raw grade due to absentism, insufficient presentation time, or tardiness will be made if appropriate.

**IV. SUGGESTIONS:**

1. Remember that you are speaking before friends and that everyone will be hoping that you do as well as possible.

2. Do not prepare your seminar in haste. It will show. You don’t need to memorize your presentation but do organize well. Do not read the entire presentation. **PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE.**

3. It is absolutely necessary that you verbally cite authorities during your talk. This is a major point which separates a casual talk from a professional presentation.

4. As a listener, jot down questions in the margin of the abstract page as you listen. Don’t leave questions to memory, they never seem to come back at the end of the talk.

5. The investment you make in a seminar as an undergraduate will reward you many times over as a graduate student or professional biologist.

6. Your principal literature reference should be from recognized reference journals and from texts and/or monographs. The student is cautioned not to employ the literature citations that are not scrutinized by scientific professionals in an objective fashion. Other than for visual aid the internet-web site sources are not acceptable except where professional scientific journals maintain such sites.
IMPORTANT NOTICE

Each student is urged to keep abreast of any and all opportunities about scholarships, internships and research opportunities:

To subscribe to this information listserve:

1) send an email message to: opportunities-list-request@sci-tamucc.edu

2) in the subject field above type: Subscribe

DROP DATES:

LAST DAY TO DROP A COURSE: June 19, 2015

**LAST DAY TO DROP A COURSE** for the semester with an automatic grade of “W”, the grade of “W” will be assigned to any student officially dropping a course. No student is eligible to receive a “W” without completing the official drop process by this deadline. After this date a student will not be allowed to drop a course.
Atherosclerosis

Atherosclerosis is the most common type of arteriosclerosis (hardening of the arteries). Atherosclerosis is hardening of the arteries due to the build up of plaque in the arteries. Plaques consist of cholesterol, fatty substances, calcium, etc. Plaques can be stable or unstable. Unstable plaques can rupture causing thrombosis to occur. Atherosclerosis affects different parts of the body depending on which artery is affected. The resulting affects can be stroke, myocardial infarct (heart attack), gangrene, and aneurysm. Cholesterol is an important controllable factor in atherosclerosis. Cholesterol is used by the body in cell membranes, hormones, etc. It can stabilize the plaque in the arteries. Stability of the plaque is important. If the plaque is not stabilized, it can rupture causing thrombosis. Cholesterol is transported through the body via low-density and high-density lipoproteins. Low-density lipoproteins (LDL) transports cholesterol to the tissues. High-density lipoprotein (HDL) transports cholesterol to the liver, where it is passed from the body. Low levels of HDL, high levels of LDL, as well as a poor HDL: total cholesterol ratio are associated with poor cardiac fitness. Controllable risk factors associated with atherosclerosis are: high blood cholesterol, tobacco smoking, high blood pressure, diabetes, obesity, and physical inactivity. Medical treatment of atherosclerosis include: angioplasty, stenting, atherectomy, and medication.

**Literature Cited**


Visual Aid References:


BIOL 4292
Seminar
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi


BIOL 4292

Important Notice: Students enrolled in BIOL 4292 MUST take (or have taken) the Major Field Test in Biology. There is no charge to the student for taking this standardized test, but it will be administered outside of the regularly scheduled class periods. More information (including test dates and locations) will be distributed as it becomes available.
SENIOR PRESENTATION
BIOL 4292

EVALUATOR

Seminar Section

REVISED EVALUATION FORM*

Seminar Speaker Date

Preparation, organization and knowledge of topic (also) ability to respond to questions (if asked any)

Appearance, posture

Abstract evaluation

Verbal citation of relevant literature

Adequate number and proper use of visual aids.

Clarity of presentation

Total evaluation points

*Please rank the above criteria on a scale of 1 to 4

4 = Excellent to outstanding; few if any improvements suggested
3 = Above average, overall good, but with minor improvements needed.
2 = Average; room for improvement, but adequate
1 = Below average to unsatisfactory, insufficient level of performance based on student’s potential. Serious inadequacies and/or room for many improvements.

NOTE: Please fill in all blanks
Suggestions: It is mandatory that you write out commentary for criticizing or commending the speaker. Use the back if necessary.

(continue comments on lower half of the back)
A. COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY POLICIES

- **Academic Integrity (University)**
  It is expected that university students will demonstrate a high level of maturity, self-direction, and ability to manage their own affairs. Students are viewed as individuals who possess the qualities of worth, dignity, and the capacity for self-direction in personal behavior. See Full University Policy at [http://catalog.tamucc.edu/content.php?catoid=10&navoid=313#Academic_Integrity](http://catalog.tamucc.edu/content.php?catoid=10&navoid=313#Academic_Integrity)

- **Classroom/Professional Behavior**

- **Deadline for Dropping a Course with a Grade of W (University)**
  The grade of W will be assigned to any student officially dropping a course by Friday, **June 19, 2015**. No student is eligible to receive a W without completing the official drop process by this deadline. Visit the Office of the University Registrar for the Course Drop Form that must be submitted. After **June 19, 2015** a student will not be allowed to drop a course.

- **Grade Appeals (College of Science and Engineering)**
  As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules website at [http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html](http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html), and the College of Science and Engineering Grade Appeals webpage at [http://sci.tamucc.edu/students/GradeAppeal.html](http://sci.tamucc.edu/students/GradeAppeal.html). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the chair or director of the appropriate department or school, the Office of the College of Science and Engineering Dean, or the Office of the Provost.

- **Disability Services**
  Disability Services (DS) is the hub for coordinating services and accommodations to ensure accessibility and utilization of all programs for all Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi students with disabilities. Our services are designed to meet the unique educational needs of enrolled students with documented permanent or temporary disabilities. DS provides intake and consultation services to students seeking to register with our office. DS reviews an individual’s documentation of disability and assesses eligibility for services and the determination of reasonable accommodations. For more information visit the Disability Services Office at 116 Corpus Christi Hall or go to [http://disabilityservices.tamucc.edu/](http://disabilityservices.tamucc.edu/)
GENERAL DISCLAIMER

I reserve the right to modify the information, schedule, assignments, deadlines, and course policies in this syllabus if and when necessary. I will announce such changes in a timely manner during regularly scheduled lecture periods.