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 our 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 ehsould 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.

D. Each student must present a typed copy of the abstract to the instructor one (1) week in advance of the presentation.

E. Attendance at seminar is mandatory. Roll will be taken in turn attendance will be factored in the final grade determination for the course. More than two (2) excused absences from seminar will result in a full letter grade deducted from the students overall semester raw grade. You are advised that if you are unable to attend seminar during the twice weekly class meetings than reschedule your enrollment for a semester during which are able to attend.

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 absenteeism, 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: April 10, 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.

BIOL 4292
Senior Presentation
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

Your Name: __________________________

Date: __________________________
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
http://www.merck.com/disease/heart/coronary_health/anatomy/cardio05.html

http://www.chemie.tudarmstadt.de/bt/Endothel.html

http://www.tmc.edu/thi/cad.html

http://www.medlib.med.utah.edu/WebPath/CVHTML/CV010.html

http://www.heartcenteronline.com/myheartdr/common/articles.cfm?artid=75$startpage=2#1

http://www.medlib.med.utah.edu/WebPath/CVHTML/CV009.html


http://www.medlib.med.utah.edu/WebPath/LIVEHTML/LIVER002.html

http://www.tmc.edu/thi/cad.html

http://www.tmc.edu/thi/cad.html

http://www.medlib.med.utah.edu/WebPatch/CVHTML/CV012.html

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**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.
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 commenting for criticizing or commending the speaker. Use the back if necessary.

(continue comments on lower half of the back)
Academic Integrity/Plagiarism*

University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in a failing grade.

Dropping a Class*

I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with me before you decide to drop to be sure it is the best thing to do. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. (April 10, 2015) is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

Classroom/professional behavior**

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

Statement of Civility (can be in place of classroom/professional behavior)**

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has a diverse student population that represents the population of the state. Our goal is to provide you with a high quality educational experience that is free from repression. You are responsible for following the rules of the University, city, state and federal government. We expect that you will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.
Grade Appeals)***

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, and the College of Science and Engineering Grade Appeals webpage (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.

Disabilities Accommodations***

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall 116.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

Statement of Academic Continuity*

In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi; this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.

*Recommended by university, language provided that mirrors language used in other publications such as the student handbook or rules/procedures.
**Recommended by university, select one from the two items regarding behavior/civility or insert a similar statement based on your class needs.
***Required by SACS or HB2504—language must be included