

Biology Seminar
BI 407/507/607
Mondays 4:00 - 5:00PM
SRTC Rm 247

INSTRUCTOR	COURSE DESCRIPTION
Justin Courcelle 725-3866 justc@pdx.edu	A course in critical thinking. Learning to assess research talks.

Prerequisites: interest in biology

Textbook: none

Websites: Course homepage <http://web.pdx.edu/~justc/courses/>

My Office Hours: Mon 2:00-4:00 SRTC Room B2-04, in person or virtual, or anytime by appointment
Zoom Link: <https://pdx.zoom.us/j/88221230764> Meeting ID: 882 2123 0764

Basic Course Format

Each Thurs. : a biologist will present their research in a seminar talk.

Course goals, Learning Objectives:

Practice the art of explaining concepts we are familiar with and unfamiliar with.

Listen to scientific research talks.

Practice assessing scientific statements. Learn to differentiate between statements supported by strong evidence and those which are more speculative.

Look up and read peer-reviewed, primary literature to critically address questions arising from scientific talks.

Weekly Assignment: If you are an taking this course for credit, passing the course requires you to attend the seminars each week. Following each seminar, please submit one question you would like to ask the seminar speaker, based on what was presented during the seminar. The question each week can be submitted using the assignments or quizzes sections on the course's CANVAS site.

The point of the question is to ensure attendance... without actually taking attendance in front of the speaker, who thinks you are there simply because you wanted to hear about their research. (which is probably true, but...) To get credit, please be sure the question is about something the speaker discussed in their seminar.

Grading: Weekly assignments 100%

Academic Honesty: Acts of academic dishonesty will result a grade of zero for the assignment and may be reported to student affairs.

Students with accommodations approved through the Disability Resource Center (DRC) are responsible for contacting me prior to or during the first week of the term to discuss accommodations. Students who believe they are eligible for accommodations but who have not yet obtained approval through the DRC should contact the DRC immediately. It is the student's responsibility to make sure that their exams and finals at the DRC are scheduled to begin before class finishes on each exam day. If the student cannot schedule their exam before this time, they should see me about arranging for alternative accommodations.

As an instructor, one of my responsibilities is to help create a safe learning environment for my students and for the campus as a whole. Please be aware that as a faculty member, I have the responsibility to report any instances of sexual harassment, sexual violence and/or other forms of prohibited discrimination. If you would rather share information about sexual harassment, sexual violence or discrimination to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can find a list of those individuals at <https://www.pdx.edu/sexual-assault/get-help>. For more information about Title IX please complete the required student module "Creating a Safe Campus" in your D2L.