

Biology Seminar
BI 407 507
Thursdays 12:00 -1:50PM
SRTC Rm 247

INSTRUCTOR Justin Courcelle 725-3866 justc@pdx.edu	COURSE DESCRIPTION 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: Following the seminar, Please submit one question via CANVAS, (based on the material presented in the seminar) that you would like to ask the seminar speaker.

Grading: Weekly assignments 100%

The rationale behind the assignment:

One reason for assigning the weekly question is to ensure that you attend the seminars, since you are taking the class for credit. Therefore, the question should reflect something on the material presented to show that you were there.

The real purpose of seminars such as this are for faculty and graduates, and undergraduates to learn more about some of the ongoing research at other institutions. Sometimes they are collaborators, other times they may be working on topics similar to that of other faculty research here.

For the guest speaker, who has taken the time to travel to the university, meet with faculty (usually two days), and prepare their seminar, they assume the people in the audience are there simply because they wanted to learn more about the topic or science. Thus, it'd be a bit rude to the speaker to take attendance in front of them, giving the impression (even if untrue) that you are there because you have to be there.

So... by submitting a question that relates to something the speaker said during the talk, I can tell you attended and can give you credit for it. Since its a pass/fail course, you should be safe as long as you dont miss more than two of the seminars.

Your weekly question can be submitted in CANVAS (click quizzes or assignments). If you have ANY questions or concerns at all about the format, your grade, or just want to chat.... please don't hesitate to either jingle or email.

Best,
Prof Courcelle

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.