Winter 2004

Junior-Senior Seminar
Biology 460

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Class: Tuesday 1300-1600, Carnegie 429  
Seminar: Tuesday 1610-~1700, Carnegie 204

Course Description: The objective of this class is to learn to critically evaluate written and oral scientific communication. An essential part of the scientific process is the presentation of the results of a scientific investigation to a scientist’s peers and the public. In this class, we will focus on evaluating two forms of scientific communication: scientific papers published in the primary literature and oral presentations. Student evaluation will be in the form of written and oral presentations. As part of this process, students will also develop skills in library research and have the opportunity to interact informally with scientists to learn more about their work, career options, and the path that led to their current careers.

Reading: All reading will be in the primary literature from articles the speakers suggest and those you find. Copies of articles are on reserve in Ladd Library.

Seminars: Attendance at all seminars is required. The only exception to this requirement will be in the case of a personal or family emergency excused by the Dean. Seminars begin at 1610 on Tuesday and are preceded by cookies in the Biology Department lounge. Students are encouraged to attend the pre-seminar festivities and meet with the speaker.

Papers: Short papers addressing some aspect of each seminar speaker’s topic are due the week of the seminar. You must write a paper on 4 of the 5 seminar topics. These papers are limited to 2 pages (12 point, 2-cm margins, double or single spaced; not including references). I will not read more than 2 pages! The final paper is limited to 5 pages and should be a broader approach to one of the seminar topics.

Oral Presentations: Each week, 3 students will present their short paper and lead a discussion on the topic. These presentations and discussion will take place the week of the seminar and may include the seminar speaker.

Communication: I will communicate changes in schedule, reading assignments etc. to the class via the class e-mail list (wb460a). It is your responsibility to check e-mail.

Grading:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Papers (2 pages, 4 @ 7.5% each)</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oral presentation</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation (class and seminar)</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final paper (5 pages)</td>
<td>30</td>
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## Syllabus and Seminar Schedule
(Subject to Change)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 1</strong></td>
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| Jan. 13 | Orientation  
Introduction to Library Research  
Introduction to Scientific Communication |
| **Week 2** | | 
| Jan. 20 | Discussion of Articles, 1<sup>st</sup> seminar  
Select paper topic |
| **Week 3** | | 
| Jan. 27 | Student Presentations  
1<sup>st</sup> Paper Due  
Jan. 29.  
**Seminar**  
Dr. Michele Dionne |
| **Week 4** | | 
| Feb. 3 | Discussion of Articles, 2<sup>nd</sup> Seminar  
Select paper topic |
| **Week 5** | | 
| Feb. 10 | **Seminar**  
Dr. William Palin  
Student Presentations  
2<sup>nd</sup> Paper Due |
<p>| <strong>Week 6</strong> | |
| Feb. 17 | BREAK |</p>
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<th>WEEK</th>
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| Week 7 | Feb. 24 | Discussion of Articles, 3\textsuperscript{rd} Seminar  
Select paper topic |
| Week 8 | March 2 | Seminar  
Dr. John Committo  
Student Presentations  
3\textsuperscript{rd} Short Paper Due |
| Week 9 | March 9 | Discussion of Articles, 4\textsuperscript{th} Seminar  
Select paper topic |
| Week 10 | March 16 | Seminar  
Dr. Bruce Peterson  
Student Presentations  
4\textsuperscript{th} Short Paper Due |
| Week 11 | March 23 | Discussion of Articles, 5\textsuperscript{th} Seminar  
Select paper topic |
| Week 12 | March 30 | Seminar  
Dr. Jim Carlton  
Student Presentations  
5\textsuperscript{th} Short Paper Due |
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<th>WEEK</th>
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<tr>
<td>Week 13</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 6</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 9</td>
<td>Final Paper Due</td>
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