

Biol 195 / Biol 196 / Neur 197
Research in Biology / Neurosciences
Spring 2008

Instructor: Jennifer Fox
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x3358

Class meeting: F 12:15-1:05
S-308
Office Hours: TBA
or by appointment
or when door is open

Course Description and Objectives

This course provides an opportunity for upper-level students to design and execute an independent project in biology, including laboratory or field research, under the supervision of biology, neuroscience, or RISE faculty. As part of the requirements of this course, each student will attend the weekly Friday seminar and complete

Course Expectations

I expect you to come to each class prepared, to be active participants in weekly discussions, to treat all members of the class with respect, and to turn assignments in on time. You can expect the same from me in return.

Written Work

You are expected to demonstrate a sense of pride and craftsmanship in your work. All writing for this class is potentially public. You may read drafts of each other's work and serve as editors and coaches for each other, and portions of your writing may be excerpted as examples in class. Assignments should be completed with care and thought, with good organization of ideas and arguments. Papers should be typed and proofread to remove typos, misspellings, and punctuation or grammatical errors.

REVISED Evaluation and Grading

Your grade for the course will be based on the following *approximate* percentages:

Participation, assignments	20 %
Research *	80

* Note: The general rule of thumb is that a student is expected to spend 3 times the credit hours working on the project per week. In other words, if you are taking BIOL 196 for 4 credits, you should be spending 12 hours each week working on your independent research project.

Assignment Deadlines

As Ben Franklin almost said, nothing is certain but death, taxes, and deadlines. In this course deadlines are imposed not only to prevent you from falling irrevocably behind, but also to ensure that your work can be returned to you in a timely manner. Exceptions will be made in cases of serious illness or family emergency and reasonable allowances will be made to accommodate other conflicts if they are brought to my attention well BEFORE the deadline.

Absences

Attendance and participation at all classes is expected. Simply put, unexcused absences and routine tardiness will adversely affect your final grade. Absences due to planned events, such as religious holidays or University-sanctioned activities, should be discussed with me beforehand so that we can make suitable arrangements. Regardless of your reason for missing class, YOU are responsible for finding out what you missed, getting copies of anything distributed in class, and turning in any work collected.

Academic Integrity

Copying from published sources or from classmates, failing to give full credit for quotations or ideas, or attempting to pass any work done by others as your own are examples of plagiarism. Plagiarism is a violation of the Drew University Academic Integrity Policy. Moreover, it is simply wrong, and undermines the mutual trust on which an academic community must be based. Plagiarism will not be tolerated. If you are ever unsure about whether you should credit a source, err on the side of over-citing and ask for guidance.

Extra Help

The best way to learn is to teach others. I strongly encourage you to take advantage of the collective wisdom of your classmates – let your discussions spill over into time outside of formal class meetings, work together to discuss readings and prepare for class, ask classmates to read over and comment on drafts of your papers. The production of all assignments, however, should be your own work.

Take advantage of the Writing Center, a resource available for all writers on campus. Tutors can help you focus on any aspect of writing, such as getting started, difficulties with organization, or sentence structure and style. For more information about the service and its hours, please visit depts.drew.edu/writecen/ or call x3617.

Requests for academic accommodations must be formally filed with the Office of Educational Services. It is your responsibility to self-identify with the Office of Educational Services. To schedule an appointment call x3327 or stop by BC 114. Please note that there are no retroactive accommodations.

I am available during my office hours, when my office door is open, and I am happy to make appointments in order to discuss research, writing, course specifics, or other matters.

I look forward to spending the semester discussing research with you!

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Date	Topic
Feb. 1	Introductions
Feb. 8	Funding and Publishing Research
Feb. 15	Job Candidate Talk
Feb. 22	Graphs and Figures
Feb. 29	Poster Principles
Mar. 7	No Class
Mar. 14	No Class - Spring Break
Mar. 21	No Class - Good Friday
Mar. 28	Tri-Beta Conference
Apr. 4	Advanced Library Searching with Cathy Ryan, Reference Librarian
Apr. 11	EndNote
Apr. 18	Science Writing
Apr. 25	Ethics 1
May 2	Ethics 2
May 5	Conclusions
MONDAY	

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