BIOL 692H: Senior Honors Thesis in Biology, Fall 2018

Tuesdays 3:30-5:30 PM in GSB 1378

Instructor:
Dr. Amy Shaub Maddox
Assistant Professor, Biology
Office: 407 Fordham Hall
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Office hours: email for appointment

The classroom portion of BIOL 692H has two main goals:
- to cultivate professional and communication skills that are applicable to the written honors thesis, honors symposium oral presentation, and beyond
- to interact as a community of scholars, discussing active research and its significance in terms that will be understood and appreciated by biologists from diverse fields

Course grade will be based on attendance (which is mandatory), class participation (e.g., peer review and editing), written assignments, and the grading of your talk and thesis.

Designation of Highest Honors/Honors/no honors will be based on an evaluation of your overall project including the presentation of it and your findings in your talk and thesis. An evaluation committee of three or more faculty will perform the evaluation, with input from your research advisor and/or the biology faculty sponsor. From the College: "Highest honors should be awarded only to students who have met the most rigorous standards of scholarly excellence."

Class schedule
Schedule is subject to minor modifications; during some class meeting times, students and instructor may meet by appointment away from the classroom, as noted below.

See Timeline pdf for more deadlines.

(1) August 21: Syllabus, Course Guidelines, Meet your classmates, Introduction to Abstracts

Make appointment for photo with Brian Nalley, in 211 Wilson Hall. Please email him to schedule an appointment Mondays-Fridays 8:00 - 11:30 AM and 1:00-3:30 PM: bnalley@bio.unc.edu

(2) August 28: Abstracts, Finalize symposium line-up, Talk intros, Choose image for display

(3) September 4: Review Writing a paper, Intro to writing, anatomy of a thesis, formatting and content
expectations, Authorship and plagiarism, Lay Intros, About thesis Introductions

(4) September 11: Thesis Intro, Talk Intro, Lay Intro, About Methods

(5) September 18: Thesis Methods, Talk Methods, Lay Intro, About Figures

(6) September 25: Thesis Figures, Talk Figures, Lay Intro, About Results

(7) October 2: Thesis Results, Talk Results, Lay Intro, About Discussions

October 9, no class

(8) October 16: Thesis Discussions, Talk Discussions, Lay Intros

(9) October 23:
  - Practice talks (~15 minute talk + ~5 minutes for questions, peer and instructor comments on paper, could record for more feedback later)
  - Final thesis due TODAY by 9 pm for faculty evaluation

(10) October 30: Practice talks again

November 6: Honors Symposium in 215 Coker Hall, in the afternoon. May be attended by honors students, advisors and mentors, thesis graders, family members, friends, and other members of the university community. Please invite your friends and family!

  Thesis feedback provided by Amy, by Friday November 9.

Sunday November 11 1-3 p.m.: potluck lunch at Amy’s house

November 12: Designation due for Highest Honors / Honors / no honors

November 30: Deadline for uploading the final thesis to the Carolina Digital Repository. (Submission Instructions here)
Diversity statement: The Department of Biology values the perspectives of individuals from all backgrounds reflecting the diversity of our students. We broadly define diversity to include race, gender identity, national origin, ethnicity, religion, social class, age, sexual orientation, political background, and physical and learning ability. We strive to make this classroom and this department an inclusive space for all students.

The professor reserves to right to make changes to the syllabus, including project due dates and test dates. These changes will be announced as early as possible.