**BIOL 692H: Senior Honors Thesis in Biology, Spring 2020**

**Tuesdays 3:30-5:30 PM in Phillips 206**

**Instructor: Dr. Amy Shaub Maddox**

Assistant Professor, Biology

Office: 407 Fordham Hall

asm@unc.edu

**TAs: Kemal Ozalp Julie Geyer**

PhD candidate, Biology PhD candidate, Biology

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For office hours with any of us: *email for appointment*

The classroom portion of BIOL692H has two main goals:

* to cultivate **written and oral communication skills** that are applicable to the written honors thesis, honors symposium oral presentation, and professional settings 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** is based on: Attendance (mandatory) 10%

Class participation 10%

Posting thesis sections weekly 10%

Peer editing weekly 10%

Completion of peer-critique rubrics 10%

General audience introduction 10%

Written thesis 20%

Symposium presentation 20%

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. GPA does not figure into HH/H designation. 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. **January 14:** Syllabus, Course Guidelines, Meet your classmates, Introduction to Abstracts

**(2) January 21:** Abstracts**,** Finalizesymposium line-up,Talk intros**,** Choose image for display

**(3) January 28:** Review[Writing a paper](http://biohonors.web.unc.edu/?p=102),Intro to writing, anatomy of a thesis, formatting and content

expectations, [Authorship and plagiarism](http://biohonors.web.unc.edu/?p=105), Lay Intros, About thesis Introductions

**https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1oTvnmcebSdwd-dY0m0a69d7IuTUk50jYWLdF8v1DDjM/edit?usp=sharing**

**(4) February 4:** Thesis Intro, Talk Intro, Lay Intro, About Methods

**https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1O-EBAMc14HWyu8PikoLk5RshdP6cfKjaLu2pbC\_tg1E/edit?usp=sharing**

**(5) February 11:** Thesis Methods, Talk Methods, Lay Intro, About Figures

**(6) February 18:** Thesis Figures**,** Talk Figures**,** Lay Intro, About Results

**(7) February 25:** Thesis Results, Talk Results, Lay Intro, About Discussions

**(8) March 3:** Thesis Discussions**,** Talk Discussions**,** Practice Lay Intros

**March 10 no class (spring break)**

**(9) March 17:**

* **Practice talks** (~15 minute talk + ~5 minutes for questions, peer and instructor comments on paper, could record for more feedback later)
* **Final thesis due March 20 by 9 pm for faculty evaluation**

**(10) March 24: Other half of practice talks**

**March 30 - April 1:** Honors Symposium in 215 Coker Hall. 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!

**Sunday April 5, 5 p.m.:** potluck lunch at Amy’s house.

**Friday April 10**: Receive readers’ thesis feedback from Amy.

**April 13: Designation due for Highest Honors / Honors / no honors**

**LDOC: Deadline** foruploading the final thesis to the [Carolina Digital Repository](https://cdr.lib.unc.edu/forms/honors-thesis.form). (Submission Instructions [here](http://blogs.lib.unc.edu/cdr/index.php/how-to-contribute-material-to-the-cdr/))

* [Senior Honors Thesis Guidelines for Academic Units, Faculty Advisors, and Students](http://honorscarolina.unc.edu/research/senior-honors-thesis/)
* [Sample Senior Honors Thesis title page](http://honorscarolina.unc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/SampleTitlePage-Feb42016.pdf)
* [Information for Faculty and Staff Advising Honors Theses](http://honorscarolina.unc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Senior-Thesis-Guidelines-Feb42016.pdf)

**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, sex, 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.