Bioc704/Biol704  Spring 2018

Biophysics Seminar Class (2 credit hours)

Instructor: Dr. Kevin Slep (kslep@bio.unc.edu); 402 Fordham Hall

Mondays: 2:00-4:00 PM, GM3007

Thursday/Friday: Arranged with seminar host faculty, Drs. Kevin Slep & Barry Lentz, Location: GM3009 (2 hour duration). Prime reserved time is Fridays 2-4 PM with some variability (see course calendar). Time subject to change based on host availability

Seminars (1 hour): Date and Location on the Class Schedule

Learning Goals:
This class is designed to 1) enhance a student’s ability to present scientific material to their peers in a comprehensive, cohesive manner, 2) enhance communication skills (both verbally and via Powerpoint presentation), 3) develop team working skills, and 4) enhance each student’s ability to constructively critique and evaluate peer scientists: their mode of presenting as well as the data and conclusions they present.

Class Description:
The course focuses on the Molecular and Cellular Biophysics spring seminar series. During the semester, pairs of students will be assigned to introduce and present the work of visiting seminar speakers to the rest of the class. These presentations will precede the seminar and will serve to familiarize the students with the speaker’s work so that they can optimally engage the speaker when she/he visits. The students will work with the course Instructor as well as the seminar Host to develop, practice, and refine a one-hour presentation. The presentation should introduce the work the visiting scientist will present. Once the talk has been practiced and refined, the students will then give their presentation to the rest of the class. During the presentation, the rest of the students in the class will play an active role in evaluating the presentation. Students will then attend the speaker’s seminar and complete a written critique of the seminar.

Class Procedures:
At the outset of the class, pairs of students will be assigned two seminar speakers for their in-class presentations.

1. Meeting with Seminar Host. Approximately two-three weeks before the seminar date, students will contact the seminar Host (or Instructor if there is no designated host), arrange to meet, and go over general guidelines including 1) papers from the seminar speaker’s lab that the Host recommends the students should read and 2) a general outline of the what
the student’s presentation should include. The students should work together prior to this, and come to the meeting with a tentative list of the papers as well as a tentative outline for the presentation.

2. **Practice Presentation.** The pair of students will arrange with the Instructor and the Host to have a practice presentation on the Thursday/Friday before the week of the seminar in GM3009 (students should check the Class Schedule as there are exceptions to this timeline when multiple seminars occur in the same week). During this two-hour session, the pair of students will present their work and the Instructor and Host will offer advice and critique the presentation. The students will then have the weekend to refine their presentation and incorporate the changes recommended by the Instructor and the Host.

3. **Class Presentation.** The pair of students will make their presentation to the rest of the class on the Monday before the seminar (GM3007, 5:45-7:45 PM). The other students in the class will evaluate the presentation and at the conclusion, offer dynamic suggestions on what they viewed as strengths as well as areas that could use improvement. Presentation evaluation forms can be downloaded from Sakai and printed out. This feedback is used by the entire class to help refine and inform their presentation skills.

4. **Seminar.** Students will attend the seminar. A seminar evaluation form will be completed by each student (this form can be downloaded from Sakai and printed out).

**Grade Determination:**
Grades will be determined based on the two presentations the student makes to the class as well as participation in the course, including constructive evaluations of the student’s peers.

- Presentation 1: 25%
- Presentation 2: 25%
- Participation: 50%

**Sakai Site:**
Course materials will be available on Sakai.

**Etiquette:**
Throughout this course you will be interacting with invited seminar speakers. Be sure to hold yourself to the highest standards as you represent UNC, the MCBP, and most importantly: yourself. This could be someone who evaluates your grant applications, reviews your papers, or takes you into their lab for a postdoc. Be formally polite with speakers when you interact with them. When you have lunch with them, wait until they arrive until you get food. Leave many food options for the speaker before selecting your meal. Do not eat before the speaker eats. Ask kind, insightful questions.