**BIOL 692H: Senior Honors Thesis in Biology, Spring 2019**

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

**Instructor: TA:**

Dr. Amy Shaub Maddox Kathryn Headley

Assistant Professor, Biology PhD Candidate, Genetics and Molecular Biology

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Office hours with either of us: email for appointment

The classroom portion of BIOL692H 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, and completion of weekly peer-critique rubrics), 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. **January 15:** Syllabus, Course Guidelines, Meet your classmates, Introduction to Abstracts

**(2) January 22:** Abstracts**,** Finalizesymposium line-up,Talk intros**,** Choose image for display

**(3) January 29:** 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

(guest instructor: Dr. Paul S. Maddox)

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

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

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

**(5) February 12:** Thesis Methods, Talk Methods, Lay Intro, About Figures

**(6) February 19:** Thesis Figures**,** Talk Figures**,** Lay Intro, About Results

**(7) February 26:** Thesis Results, Talk Results, Lay Intro, About Discussions

**(8) March 5:** Thesis Discussions**,** Talk Discussions**,** Practice Lay Intros

**March 12 no class (spring break)**

**(9) March 19:**

* **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 19 by 9 pm for faculty evaluation**

**(10) March 26: Other half of practice talks**

**April 1-5:** Honors Symposium in 215 Coker Hall, in the afternoons. 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 April 5.

**Sunday April 7 5 p.m.:** potluck lunch at Amy’s house

**April 8: Designation due for Highest Honors / Honors / no honors**

**One week before 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, 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.