

**Junior-Senior Seminar
Biology 460**

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Class: Tuesday 1300-1600, Carnegie 429
Seminar: Tuesday 1610- ~1700, Carnegie 204

Course Description: The objective of this class is to learn to critically evaluate written and oral scientific communication. An essential part of the scientific process is the presentation of the results of a scientific investigation to a scientist's peers and the public. In this class, we will focus on evaluating two forms of scientific communication: scientific papers published in the primary literature and oral presentations. Student evaluation will be in the form of written and oral presentations. As part of this process, students will also develop skills in library research and have the opportunity to interact informally with scientists to learn more about their work, career options, and the path that led to their current careers.

Reading: All reading will be in the primary literature from articles the speakers suggest and those you find. Copies of articles are on reserve in Ladd Library.

Seminars: Attendance at **all** seminars is **required**. The only exception to this requirement will be in the case of a personal or family emergency excused by the Dean. Seminars begin at 1610 on Tuesday and are preceded by cookies in the Biology Department lounge. Students are encouraged to attend the pre-seminar festivities and meet with the speaker.

Papers: Short papers addressing some aspect of each seminar speaker's topic are due the week of the seminar. You must write a paper on 4 of the 5 seminar topics. These papers are limited to 2 pages (12 point, 2-cm margins, double or single spaced; not including references). **I will not read more than 2 pages!** The final paper is limited to 5 pages and should be a broader approach to one of the seminar topics.

Oral Presentations: Each week, 3 students will present their short paper and lead a discussion on the topic. These presentations and discussion will take place the week of the seminar and may include the seminar speaker.

Communication: I will communicate changes in schedule, reading assignments etc. to the class via the class e-mail list (wb460a). It is your responsibility to check e-mail.

Grading:

Papers (2 pages, 4 @ 7.5% each)	30 %
Oral presentation	20
Participation (class and seminar)	20
Final paper (5 pages)	30

Syllabus and Seminar Schedule

(Subject to Change)

WEEK	TOPIC
Week 1	
Jan. 13	Orientation Introduction to Library Research Introduction to Scientific Communication
Week 2	
Jan. 20	Discussion of Articles, 1 st seminar Select paper topic
Week 3	
Jan. 27	Student Presentations 1st Paper Due
Jan. 29.	Seminar Dr. Michele Dionne
Week 4	
Feb. 3	Discussion of Articles, 2 nd Seminar Select paper topic
Week 5	
Feb. 10	Seminar Dr. William Palin Student Presentations 2nd Paper Due
Week 6	
Feb. 17	BREAK

WEEK**TOPIC**

Week 7

Feb. 24 Discussion of Articles, 3^d Seminar
Select paper topic

Week 8

March 2 **Seminar**
Dr. John Committo
Student Presentations
3^d Short Paper Due

Week 9

March 9 Discussion of Articles, 4th Seminar
Select paper topic

Week 10

March 16 **Seminar**
Dr. Bruce Peterson
Student Presentations
4th Short Paper Due

Week 11

March 23 Discussion of Articles, 5th Seminar
Select paper topic

Week 12

March 30 **Seminar**
Dr. Jim Carlton
Student Presentations
5th Short Paper Due

WEEK**TOPIC**

Week 13

April 6

TBA

April 9

Final Paper Due