Course Description

This one credit course is designed to involve upper-level undergraduates in the Biology Department seminar series. The department, and therefore the seminar series, covers a wide range of biological topics, from ecology to neuroscience. Students will be exposed to results and ideas too recent to be included in textbooks. In addition, they will see how previously published work forms the foundation for today’s experiments, and experience the excitement and interest of a scientific community.

Assignments

1. **Choose one seminar in September, one in October, and one in November to research, attend, and report upon.**
   To help you choose, look at the titles of the talks, go to the webpage of the seminar speaker, or look at abstracts from the speaker’s recent publications—use PubMed ([http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/)). Ask Dr. Haswell if you have any questions or need guidance.

   Biology Department Seminar Series
   Mondays at 4 pm Rebstock 322
   [http://wubio.wustl.edu/events?tid=8](http://wubio.wustl.edu/events?tid=8)

   Neuroscience Colloquium
   Fridays at 4 pm Connor Auditorium, Med campus
   [http://neurosciencheresearch.wustl.edu/Pages/NeuroscienceColloquium.aspx](http://neurosciencheresearch.wustl.edu/Pages/NeuroscienceColloquium.aspx)

   Molecular Microbiology and Microbial Pathogenesis Seminar Series
   Tuesdays at 12, Cori Auditorium, Med Campus
   [http://microbiology.wustl.edu/mmmp_seminar.htm](http://microbiology.wustl.edu/mmmp_seminar.htm)

   Department of Genetics Seminar Series
   Thursdays at 12, Cori Auditorium, Med Campus
2. **Before each seminar, write a 2-page research paper on the speaker’s research topic.**
   This paper is due 24 hours prior to the start of the seminar. The paper should be emailed to Dr. Haswell in PDF format, or placed in her mailbox in hard copy.

   Using PubMed and the seminar speaker’s laboratory website, please include the following in your paper:

   a) The general area of study and background necessary to understand the research that will be presented. You must read and reference at least one review article in the research area.

   b) Recent results from the speaker’s laboratory, covering work from at least two papers published in the last 10 years.

   c) The current questions the speaker’s lab is addressing.

3. **Attend each seminar.**
   Make sure you arrive early enough to get a seat and stay for the question and answer session at the end. Note that WU medical school does not observe the 10-minutes after the hour rule that we use on the Danforth campus, and those seminars will likely start on the hour. You will want to take notes during the seminar so that you can refer to them for the report.

4. **For each seminar, write a 1-page report.**
   The report for each seminar is due one week after the seminar was held. It should summarize and critique the seminar and describe how the results presented add to what has already been published.

5. **Write a 2-page end-of-semester essay.**
   This paper should describing your experience attending and critiquing seminars during the semester. This paper is due December 8th.

   Some questions to consider in your essay:

   - How did these seminars differ from your class lectures you’ve attended in the past?
   - Did they change your perception of how scientific research is conducted?
   - Did any of the seminars connect with other coursework you have taken?
   - Which seminars were the most interesting to you and why?