

COURSE OUTLINECourse co-ordinators

Priti Krishna	Ph. 661-2111 x86406		prishna@uwo.ca
Vojislava Grbic	Ph. 661-2111 x86898	WSC 341	vgrbic@uwo.ca

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Jason Lehrer	Ph. 661-2111 x86473	B&G 3035	jlehrer@uwo.ca
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Class

Fridays 10:30 am to 1:30 pm (Sept-Dec), TC 205

Mondays 9:30 am to 12:30 pm (Jan-April), KB K103

Course Objectives:

The objective of this course is to offer skills in searching, comprehending and interpreting the information, presenting (written and oral) and discussing published literature on recent topics in Genetics.

Overview: There are several components to this course:Fall term:*Career Options*

A few guest seminars will give the class exposure to career areas, research topics, and how research data can be presented in seminars.

Lectures

Two workshops will be presented on how to present a seminar and write a term paper.

Student Seminars

Each student will prepare one research seminar on one **primary research publication** of her/his choice **ONLY from the list of journals provided at the end of the course outline**. The research article will be selected and communicated to Dr. Krishna and Jason Lehrer no later than Oct 4 **in the following format** [Saze H. et al. (2008). Control of Genic DNA Methylation by a JmjC Domain-Containing Protein in Arabidopsis thaliana. Science 319, 462-465]. The pdf of the paper will be attached to the e-mail. Each student presentation will be 25 minutes long and will be followed by 10 minutes of questions.

Term Paper

Each student will prepare a term paper on the **primary research publication** selected for presentation in the Fall term and **two additional primary research publications related to the topic**. Students are encouraged to read several other related papers to enhance their understanding of the subject. The Term paper will be **two** pages long, excluding references and figures. Papers should introduce the research question, summarize the hypothesis, and present experimental methods and results in a combined way, followed by a discussion. See

'**Information for written assignments**' below for more details. The term paper will be submitted to Jason Lehrer no later than Dec 17.

Winter term:

Student Seminars

Each student will prepare a research seminar, based on **two primary research publications from a list of journals provided at the end** of the course outline. The presentation will be 30 minutes long and will be followed by 15 minutes of questions.

Term paper

Each student will individually write the second term paper that will be **based on the same two primary research publications used for the oral presentations**. This paper will **focus on discussing future experiments** based on selected primary research publications. This term paper will be **one** page long, excluding references and figures, and will be handed on a date TBA (BUT TOWARDS THE END OF THE TERM)

Poster presentation

Two students in a group will prepare and present a poster in the Winter term based on **two selected primary research papers**, papers other than those chosen for seminar and second term paper. The poster format will be typical of what is presented in scientific conferences and will be discussed in class prior to the assignment.

PLAGIARISM

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt using proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar). Plagiarism Checking: The University of Western Ontario uses software for plagiarism checking. Students may be required to submit their written work in electronic form for plagiarism checking.

Student Participation

Class attendance is MANDATORY. Student participation will be evaluated based on attendance and participation in class discussion, asking questions and providing constructive feedback to fellow students on their seminars.

Evaluation

1. Student Seminar Presentation (Fall)	20%
2. Student term paper (Fall)	20%
3. Student Seminar Presentation (Winter)	20%
4. Student Poster Presentation	15%
5. Student Term Paper (Winter)	15%
6. Student Participation (Fall and Winter)	10 % (5+5)

Information for written assignments

ALL written assignments must comply with the following rules:

All written assignments must be typed and submitted on single-sided pages, using double-spacing, 12 pt. character size and 1" margins. Do not exceed page limits. The page count refers to text pages only, and does not include - references, tables, figures, figure legends etc.

References: reference style should be as defined by the journal **Cell**. Internet sites cannot be used as a source. Cite only primary research publications.

Figure Legends: do not copy Figure Legends from papers; use your own words.

Visual material presented must be of a quality that allows clear and easy interpretation. Origins of Figures and Tables must be clearly credited.

Schedule

WINTER TERM

Jan 3	Introduction: <i>Course Outline, preparation of student seminar schedule</i>
Jan 10	Workshop 1: <i>Dissecting a research paper (Dr. Grbic)</i>
Jan 17	Workshop 2: <i>Dissecting a research paper (class)</i>
Jan 24	Workshop 3: <i>Discussions on selected topics (student led discussion in groups; groups and topics to be distributed on January 3rd)</i>
Jan 31	Workshop 4: <i>Discussions on selected topics (student led discussion in groups; groups and topics to be distributed on January 3rd)</i>
Feb 4, 5	POSTER PRESENTATIONS
Feb 7	Discussion on poster presentations
Feb 14	NO CLASS
Feb 21	SPRING BRAKE
Feb 28	Student presentations (3)
March 7	Student presentations (3)
March 14	Student presentations (3)
March 21	Student presentations (3)
March 28	Student presentations (3)
April 4	Student presentations and closing
April 8th	Term paper due

Journals between 2008-2010

Cell, EMBO J, Nature and relevant sister journals such as Nature Genetics, Nature

Biotech etc., Science, PNAS, Plant Cell, Plant Journal, Current Biology, Development, Genes and Development, Genome Biology, PloS Biology, PloS Genetics

From the Dean's Office:

If you are unable to meet a course requirement due to illness or other serious circumstances, you must provide valid medical or other supporting documentation to the Dean's office as soon as possible and contact your instructor immediately. It is the student's responsibility to make alternative arrangements with their instructor once the accommodation has been approved and the instructor has been informed. In the event of a missed final exam, a "Recommendation of Special Examination" form must be obtained from the Dean's Office immediately.

For further information please see:

<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/medical.pdf>

A student requiring academic accommodation due to illness, should use the Student Medical Certificate when visiting an off-campus medical facility or request a Records Release Form (located in the Dean's Office) for visits to Student Health Services. The form can be found here: https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical_document.pdf