

**Senior Seminar in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology****SYLLABUS**

**Class:** Wednesdays from 12:00-12:50 PM in MRB316

**Instructor:** P. Shing Ho      Email: Shing.Ho@colostate.edu  
Phone: 491-0569  
Office: MRB375

**Objectives:**

- Learn to critically read and evaluate the scientific literature.
- Learn to organize hypotheses, methods, data, and conclusions for seminar.
- Learn to present hypotheses, methods, data, and conclusions as a seminar.
- Learn to organize hypotheses, methods, data, and conclusions for a thesis.

**Class Schedule:**

8/23	P. Shing Ho - Introduction to the course.
8/30 – 9/6	Appointments w/Dr. Ho to discuss topic, if necessary
8/30	Presentation schedule presented to students <i>Presentation: Giving a good seminar.</i>
9/6	P. Shing Ho – Sample seminar; schedule finalized
9/8	Presentation topics (plus reference to one paper) due
9/13	Student seminars begin
12/6	Student seminars end/course evaluations

**Assignments:**

1. **Presentation topic (10%).** (Due Thursday 09/07/2017, by e-mail to instructor) The topic for your presentation will be on papers related to your thesis topic. You will need to have the reference to one paper submitted along with your topic.
2. **Abstract of presentation (25%).** Due on the Thursday the week BEFORE your presentation (by e-mail to instructor). One page, with a title, 1½ spacing, 12 pt Times Roman font, plus list of literature cited on separate page.
3. **Presentation (50%).** Should be based on at least one paper from the primary literature (not review articles), with supporting papers to introduce and give perspective to the topic. Each presentation will be 25 minutes with 5 minutes for questions. (1 presentation per week).
4. **Presentation evaluation (15%).** Each student will evaluate each presentation using the evaluation forms. Your name and the speaker's name must be at the top of each form (the top will be cut off for anonymity).

**Grading:**

Traditional letter grades (A to F) will be assigned. The individual class assignments will constitute the percentage of your grade as indicated above. Written assignments will be graded for *spelling and grammar*, as well as content, organization, and proper references. **Attendance for all lectures is mandatory.** After the first unexcused absence, a student's final grade will be reduced by half grade for each additional unexcused absence.

**Format for the Presentation Abstract:****Title of presentation**

(your name)

What is the larger problem and why is it important? What specific part of this larger problem will you focus on? How does your selected paper(s) try to answer this larger question? What will your presentation try to convince us of? What will be the general take-home conclusion?

Reference:

1. Reference to paper 1.
2. Reference to paper 2.

**Format for the Evaluation of Abstract and Presentation:**

BC493 Evaluation Sheet

Student name:

Abstract: General comments from Dr. Ho on strengths and weaknesses.

Evaluation: Poor/Fair/Good/Very Good/Excellent (or combinations of two)

Presentation: Summary of comments from students and Dr. Ho on aspects that went well and those can be improved.

Evaluation: Poor/Fair/Good/Very Good/Excellent (or combinations of two)

Overall Grade: A/B/C/D/F (student will be given the opportunity to submit a revised abstract)