

**Instructor:** Dr. Santiago Di Pietro  
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### **Course Description and Objectives**

The core element of this course is to make a class presentation based on multiple research papers taken from the current scientific literature. In addition, you are required to attend and evaluate the presentations made by all the other students in the class. The major class outcomes are as follows:

- 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.
- Prepare the groundwork for your Senior Thesis.

**Class hours:** Thursdays 12:00 – 12:50 PM in MRB 123

**Office hours:** By appointment with Dr. Di Pietro

### **Assignments:**

1. Presentation topic (10%). Due 2 weeks before your presentation (to instructor by email). The topic for your presentation should be on papers related to your thesis topic. You will need to have the reference to at least one paper to hand-in with your topic.
2. Abstract of presentation (25%). Due 1 week before your presentation (by e-mail to instructor). One page, with title, 1 1/2 spacing, 12 pt, Times New Roman font, plus a list of literature cited on separate page.
3. Presentation (50%). Should be based on at least one research paper from the primary literature (not review articles), with supporting papers to introduce and give perspective to the topic. Each presentation will be 15 minutes followed by questions and discussion (10 minutes). There will be two presentations per week.
4. Presentation evaluations (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 one grade for every additional unexcused absence.

### **CSU Student Honor Code:**

This course will adhere to the Academic Integrity Policy and Student Conduct Code of Colorado State University as described in the [General Catalog](#).

### **COVID-19:**



<b>Week 10</b> Oct. 28
<b>Week 11</b> Nov. 4
<b>Week 12</b> Nov. 11
<b>Week 13</b> Nov. 18
<b>FALL BREAK WEEK</b>
<b>Week 14</b> Dec. 2
<b>Week 15</b> Dec. 9
<b>Week 16 - Finals</b> <b>Wed Dec. 15</b> <b>9:40-11:30am</b>