

COURSE SYLLABUS OUTLINE

Course Title and Number: Graduate Seminar II (BSC 662)

Semester and Year: Fall 2018

Room: S-374

Time: Monday, Wednesday 4-4:50

Instructors:

Name: Dr. Jayme L. Waldron

Office: S-378

Office Hours: Tuesday 10:30-11:30, or by appointment (I prefer appointment).

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Course Overview:

Graduate Seminar II is a one-credit, graduate level course in which students gain experience in scientific writing, and in preparing and presenting scientific talks in formats that are commonly used in scientific professions. The course is designed to provide presentation practice for students who are at different stages of their graduate careers. Presentation types include research proposals, research progress reports, and critical reviews of published literature. Course grades are based on writing scientific abstracts, knowledge of the subject area, speaking skills and preparing quality illustrations.

Credit: 1 hour in biological sciences

Prerequisites: Graduate Student, BSC 660, 661

University Policies: By enrolling in this course, you agree to the University Policies listed below. Please read the full text of each policy by going to www.marshall.edu/academic-affairs and clicking on "Marshall University Policies." Or, you can access the policies directly by going to http://www.marshall.edu/academic-affairs/?page_id=802

Academic Dishonesty/ Excused Absence Policy for Undergraduates/ Computing Services Acceptable Use/ Inclement Weather/ Dead Week/ Students with Disabilities/ Academic Forgiveness/ Academic Probation and Suspension/ Academic Rights and Responsibilities of Students/ Affirmative Action/ Sexual Harassment

Text Information:

No requirements. Resources will be provided on blackboard or via email.

*Computer Requirements: Microsoft Word and Microsoft Powerpoint

Desired Learner Outcomes/Objectives:

- (1) To enhance research and communication skills.
- (2) To be able to critically evaluate scientific literature and presentations.
- (3) To be able to present convincing arguments in a clear and concise manner.
- (4) To develop compelling professional and scientific documents and presentations.

Assessment:

All assignments in this class are designed with the goal of developing your skills as an effective

communicator and evaluator of scientific work. There will be both written assignments and oral presentations assigned for credit. Details of these assignments will be given to you as the class progresses.

Grading Policy: Grading scale will be as follows:

90-100% = A 80-89% = B 70-79% = C 60-69% = D ≤ 59% = F

Participation	10%
Seminar Abstract	20%
Final Oral Presentation	50%
Lightning Talk/Elevator Talk	10%
Attendance	10%

1. Seminar Abstracts. Seminar Abstracts must be prepared by all MA and MS students. The title of the abstract should be concise and accurately reflect the content of the abstract. The body of the abstract should accurately summarize the content of the presentation. Abstracts should include an opening statement that indicates the importance of the research, and a brief summary of methods, results and conclusions. The body of the abstract (excluding the title) should not exceed 300 words. Draft abstracts are due on Wednesday *October 17*. Final abstracts are due for all students on Wednesday *October 31*. Failure to complete the abstract assignments on time will result in the deduction of a letter grade on the assignment.
2. Seminar Presentations. Each student will present a seminar to the class. The type of seminar to be given depends upon whether the presenter is an MA or MS student and on how long he or she has been enrolled in the BSC program. The following brief descriptions should be used as guidelines for preparing seminar presentations.
 - a. MA Seminar Presentations. Each MA student will present one seminar during the course of the semester. The seminar must be approximately 12 minutes in length (plus 3 minutes for questions). The student is required to present a synthesis of two to three recent (within last five years) research articles from high-impact, peer-reviewed journals directly related to his or her area of interest. The subjects of the articles should be sufficiently related to allow the student to synthesize the findings into a clear and well-supported description of recent research. The topic for discussion should be chosen *via* discussion with the student's MA advisor and other Biology faculty. Critical elements here are: draw papers together into a single topic; appropriate background information; discussion of methods and experimental design; presentation of results; and discussion and overall conclusions that ties the research back to overall objective.

MS Seminar Presentations. Each MS student will present one seminar during the course of the semester. The seminar must be approximately 12 minutes in length (plus 3 minutes for discussion/questions), and must reflect the student's thesis progress. The content of the seminar is to be determined by the student in consultation with the student's advisor, and other committee members.
 - a. Third semester students (and more senior MS students who are not graduating in the current semester) must present a research progress seminar. The student should describe the methods used to collect and analyze his or her data. The student should present the data collected and analyzed during the course of his or her thesis research to date, and discuss how the preliminary data address a specific research question or hypothesis. The student should discuss how their data and analyses compare with the findings of previous studies. Critical elements here are: discussion of methods and experimental design; data gathered to date; bearing of data on study hypotheses and relation to earlier work.

Participation: Each student is expected to not only attend seminar, but to participate by paying attention, asking questions, and providing constructive written feedback to presenters.

Attendance: Attendance is MANDATORY. You will have to sign-in during every class period. Please consult the university policy on excessive absences (see link at beginning of syllabus). You can miss three classes (i.e., 10% of lectures). After the third absence, 3% will be deducted from your final grade for EVERY missed class.

Cell phones/texting: Mobile phones are not permitted in class. You will be dismissed from class if you are caught texting or if your phone rings. You will be given an absence for the day.

Laptops/ipads/notebooks/etc: Computers may not be used in class. Lectures may not be recorded. Notes must be taken using paper and writing utensils.

COURSE OUTLINE/DAILY/WEEKLY SCHEDULE:

Week (Dates)	Topic
Week 1 (Aug 20-24)	Course Introduction Objectives Getting to know you
Week 2 (Aug 27-31)	Career Goals CV construction
Week 3 (Sep 3-7)	No Class Monday Sep 3, Labor Day Holiday CV Construction
Week 4 (Sep 10-14)	Job Searches
Week 5 (Sep 17-21)	Job & School Applications (Cover Letters, References, etc.)
Week 6 (Sep 24-28)	Abstract development
Week 7 (Oct 1-5)	Abstract evaluation
Week 8 (Oct 8-12)	What makes a good talk? Pitching your research.... Elevator Pitch Talks
Week 9 (Oct 15-19)	Lightning Talks Draft Abstract Due Wednesday October 17
Week 10 (Oct 22-26)	Presentation Skills – breaking it down
Week 11 (Oct 29-Nov 2)	Slides – Introduction/Methods Final Abstract Due Wednesday October 31
Week 12 (Nov 5-9)	Slides -- Results Data Illustrations
Week 13 (Nov 12-16)	Slides -- Summary
Week 14 (Nov 19-23)	Tie up loose ends – guest seminar
Week 15 (Nov 26-30)	Oral Presentations
Week 16 (Dec 3-7)	Oral Presentations
Finals Week	<u>No class</u>