

Syllabus: Seminar I (BSC 661)

Semester: Spring, 2017; Sec. 201, CRN 2254

Lecture Location: Science Building, Room S374

Class Time: Formal Class Meetings: Tuesday/Thursday; 4:00-4:50 (also will need to attend *certain* sessions of BSC 662 Seminar II: Monday/Wednesday; 4:00-4:50)

Instructor: Elmer M. Price, Ph.D.

Office: 241Q Byrd Biotechnology Science Center

Phone: 304-696-3611

Email: pricee@marshall.edu (Please use the Subject Line "BSC 661" so I'll know it's an important email; I will try to respond in a timely manner)

Office Hours: T/R, 3:00 – 4:00 **or** by appointment (use email to arrange) **or** just drop by my office or research lab (219 Byrd Biotech Sci. Ctr.) anytime and unless I'm doing brain surgery I'll probably be able to chat.

Credit Hours: 2

Prerequisites/Co-requisites: None, other than matriculation into the BSC graduate program.

Course Description (from the catalog): In depth group discussion of current biological issues.

Additional Description: This class is intended for graduate students in the Department of Biology at Marshall University. The scientific interests within the department are very diverse and it follows that graduate students in this course are individuals with different backgrounds, expertise and interests. One objective is to draw individual students into Socratic-based group discussions about current biological topics (mainly, but not exclusively, their thesis projects), thus facilitating the exploration of diverse points of view. The course will also discuss topics relevant to career development, especially communication, critically thinking about students' (and others') projects, and professionalism.

Student Learning Outcomes

Course Outcomes	Opportunities to Practice Course Outcome	Course Outcome Assessment(s)
Develop oral communication skills	Prepare 30 second talk (the Elevator Pitch)	Evaluated by the class and instructor
Develop oral and visual presentation skills	Two talks (Three Minute Thesis (3MT [®]) and ten minute thesis); both on students' own projects	Evaluated by the class and instructor
Synthesize new biological paradigms	Prepare one five presentation on another student's project	Evaluated by the class and instructor
Develop critical thinking skills	Critique class presentations	Evaluated by the instructor

Required Texts

None-The course will utilize handouts and internet sources. Students must have access to the Internet and Microsoft Office programs (Word, PowerPoint or similar).

Lecture Attendance Policy

It is doubtful that attendance will be a problem for a class of your caliber, but it is important to mention that participation in each class session is an integral component of the final grade. In addition, some assignments are either assigned or completed in-class. If you have an excused absence, you must obtain the missed assignment from your instructor within one week (7 days) of the absence. University-excused absences are described here: <http://www.marshall.edu/academic-affairs/policies/>

Cell Phone/Electronics Policy

It is inconceivable that a cell phone policy has to be discussed to a graduate class. Electronic devices are to be turned off and be out of sight.

Grading Policy

The final grade will be based on the following:

Elevator Pitch: 15%
Three Minute Thesis: 20%
Ten Minute Thesis: 25%

Five Minute New Discipline Talk: 15%
Class Participation: 25%

All of the presentations will be judged by the class and the instructors; the peer score will constitute 25% of the score for an assignment and the instructor's score the remaining 75%.

Class participation includes critical peer review of presentations and in-class discussions.

Policy For Students With Disabilities

Marshall University is committed to equal opportunity in education for all students, including those with physical, learning and psychological disabilities. University policy states that it is the responsibility of students with disabilities to contact the Office of Disabled Student Services (DSS) in Prichard Hall 117, phone 304 696-2271 to provide documentation of their disability. Following this, the DSS Coordinator will send a letter to each of the student's instructors outlining the academic accommodation he/she will need to ensure equality in classroom experiences, outside assignment, testing and grading. The instructor and student will meet to discuss how the accommodation(s) requested will be provided. For more information, please visit <http://www.marshall.edu/disabled> or contact Disabled Student Services Office at Prichard Hall 11, phone 304-696-2271. Please take advantage of this opportunity as soon as possible, early in the semester

Policy For Academic Dishonesty

Please see:

<http://www.marshall.edu/president/board/Policies/MUBOG%20AA-12%20Academic%20Dishonesty.pdf> for Marshall's policy. In brief, plagiarism, threats, or complicity are all examples of academic dishonesty and students engaged in this behavior will be caught. Punishment can range from a lower grade for the test or project, to expulsion from the university.

Policy Regarding Inclement Weather or Other Dangerous Events

Marshall will rarely close due to bad weather. However, when it is necessary to change the schedule every effort will be made to notify the local media. Closings and delays will be announced by these local services. If the university is open, but the student feels that the conditions are too dangerous for them to attend, they will not be penalized for missing class; please do not exploit this policy. Contact your professor as soon as reasonably possible on such days.

In the case of a fire alarm, students are to leave the building quickly and orderly. In the case of a tornado, students are to move into the hall, away from windows and doors. MUPD phone number is 696-

4357 (696-HELP). You probably have a pizza joint or a nail salon on your phone's contact list; add the campus police, too. Rethink your priorities, people.

Students are encouraged to sign up for the automatic Marshall University emergency text messaging system to be notified of emergency situations and other important announcements. To sign up, go to: myMU; log in; click on MU Alert (top of screen, a red triangle), and complete the information to participate in MU's emergency notification system.

Learning Objectives

The instructor has several objectives for his students during this semester. They are listed below in order of increasing significance to the student's long-term success (in science, in post-baccalaureate education, and in careers [aka your life]).

1. The gain of simple knowledge, and any student can achieve this modest objective by simply memorizing material.

2. A more significant objective is the actual comprehension of the material. Does the student actually understand the material, or are they only parroting the material during presentations. One who comprehends the material can answer questions using information gleaned from the literature, even if the exact question was not directly addressed in the literature.

3. In order to use information learned from the literature in future years, the student must be capable of applying the knowledge to new events. An ability to apply new knowledge is a sign of creativity that leads to exceptional careers.

4. Finally, the best and brightest have the capacity to synthesize new paradigms, new theories, and new designs that advance their chosen field. Students must learn to create new ideas, design new experiments, and actually perform the work that yields a new information, discoveries, or technologies.