

<b>Course: Title/Number</b>	<b>BSC 662: GRADUATE SEMINAR II</b>
<b>Semester/Year</b>	<b>Spring 2017</b>
<b>Instructor</b>	<b><i>Marcia Harrison-Pitaniello and Guo-Zhang Zhu</i></b>
Days/Time	MW 4:00 – 4:50 pm
Location	Science 374
Office	<b>Harrison:</b> Science 200A; Lab: Science 107; <b>Zhu:</b> Science 394; Lab Science 361
Phone	<b>Harrison:</b> (304) 696-4867; <b>Zhu:</b> (304) 696-2429
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Office/Hours	<b>Harrison:</b> Wednesdays from 2:00.- 4:00 p.m.; Tuesdays and Thursday from 11:00 am-12:00 p.m., or by appointment <b>Zhu:</b> Mondays 1:00-4:00 p.m.
University Policies	By enrolling in this course, you agree to the University Policies at <a href="http://www.marshall.edu/academic-affairs/?page_id=802">http://www.marshall.edu/academic-affairs/?page_id=802</a> for 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.

### Course Description: From Catalog

**Graduate Seminar II (1 hour):** Oral presentation of individual topics. Prerequisites: Graduate Student, BSC 661

<b>Course Student Learning Outcomes</b>	<b>How students will practice each outcome?</b>	<b>How student achievement of each outcome will be assessed?</b>
To enhance oral and written communication skills in order to present convincing arguments in a clear and concise manner for different audiences.	Students will participate in exercises to enhance communication skills relevant to their written and oral assignments.	Student communication skills will be a component of all graded course assignments.
To be able to critically evaluate scientific literature and presentations.	Students will read and discuss articles as part of the preparation for the Wikipedia assignment and oral presentation.	Part of the assessment will be based on the ability to synthesize scientific background information for general and scientific audiences.
To develop compelling professional and scientific documents and presentations.	Students will develop figures, images, and tables within their oral presentations.	Part of the assessment will be based on the clarity and content of the materials in the oral presentation slides.

### Required Texts, Additional Reading, and Other Materials

1. No required texts. Resources will be provided on MUOnline and by email with weekly announcements.
2. \*Computer Requirements: Microsoft Word and Microsoft PowerPoint

### Course Requirements / Due Dates

- 1) **Wikipedia entry [10%]:**  
Tutorial completion and article review: To Wikipedia by Jan. 24, 2017.  
Add to an assignment: To Wikipedia by Feb. 3  
First draft of your article: To Wikipedia by Feb. 10  
Review a classmate's article: To Wikipedia by Feb. 17  
Wikipedia article addition and improvement: To Wikipedia by Feb. 27, 2017.
- 2) **Abstract [30%]:**  
Draft [10%]: To MUOnline by midnight March 3, 2017.  
Abstract [20%]: To MUOnline by March 31, 2017.
- 3) **Seminar Presentation [50%]:** Presentations will be determined according to the course schedule.
- 4) **Class participation/Peer review [10%]:** Attendance is MANDATORY. You will have to sign-in during every class period.

## Grading Policy

**Assessment:** Course grades are based on writing scientific abstracts, knowledge of the subject area, speaking skills and preparing quality illustrations. All assignments in this class are designed with the goal of developing your skills as an effective communicator and evaluator of scientific work. Details of these assignments will be given to you in class, in Wikipedia, and on MUOnline.

<u>Graded material:</u>		<u>Grading scale:</u>	
Wikipedia	10%	A = 100–90%	
Abstract draft	10%	B = 89–80%	
Seminar abstract	20%	C = 79–70%	
Oral presentation	50%	D = 69–60%	
Class participation	10%	F = ≤59%	

**Wikipedia entry:** This exercise is to learn how to contribute and correct Wikipedia entries. The exercise will also serve to select appropriate scientific references, learn how to convey scientific principles to a general audience [and considerations for scientific audiences], and to add content to an area of **your expertise**.

**Seminar Abstract:** 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. Due dates: Drafts are due to MUOnline on March 3, 2017; Final abstracts are due to MUOnline on March 31, 2017. Failure to complete the abstract assignments on time will result in the deduction of a letter grade on the assignment.

**Seminar presentations:** Each student will present a seminar to the class as part of a **BSC 662 Conference**. The course is designed to provide presentation practice for students who are at different stages of their graduate careers. Presentation types include research reports and critical reviews of published literature. 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. All conference presentations will be 15 minutes in length (plus 5 minutes for discussion/questions). Practice sessions will be 15 minutes in length, followed by 5-10 minutes of discussion.

MA Seminar Presentations. The student is required to present a synthesis of two to three recent (within last 5 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 from an area of expertise based on your studies at Marshall. 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 the overall objective.

MS Seminar Presentations. Each MS student will present a talk that reflects 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) will 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 compared 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.

b. *MS students* who are graduating in the current semester will present a conference style presentation of their thesis work. Students should present a summary of previous research in the field in order to provide a context for the importance of their work. The student should discuss the methods used to collect and analyze the data, and present the data collected and analyzed during the course of his or her thesis research. The student should discuss how the final data answer a specific research question or address a specific hypothesis (or not), and must discuss how their data and analyses compare with the findings of previous studies.

**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 the 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.

**Electronic devices.**

Cell phones/texting: Use of mobile phones is 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 except for specific in-class work. Presentations and lectures may not be recorded. Notes must be taken using paper and writing utensils.

**Attendance Policy**

Attendance in seminar is integrated into your grade. You are responsible for any material missed by being absent. Absences due to illness, death in the family, or institutional activities will be excused with notification by the instructor within one week of the absence. Inclement weather: Class and/or lab will be cancelled due to inclement weather, according to the policy described at [http://www.marshall.edu/academic-affairs/?page\\_id=802](http://www.marshall.edu/academic-affairs/?page_id=802). If a student feels that he/she cannot travel safely to class, he/she may log into MUOnline to participate in class. For cancelled classes, class information and materials will be posted on MUOnline.

**Graduation Timeline (from <http://www.marshall.edu/graduate/graduation-and-commencement-timetable/>)**

<b>Official Graduation Date (this is the date that will appear on your diploma)</b>	<b>May 6, 2017</b>	<b>July 7, 2017</b>	<b>August 11, 2017</b>	<b>December 16, 2017</b>
<b>DUE DATES</b>				
Submit <a href="#">Application for Graduation</a> Pay diploma fee in Bursar's office.	<b>February 3, 2017</b>	June 9, 2017	July 14, 2017	September 15, 2017
Comprehensive Exam Thesis/Dissertation Defense Submit <a href="#">Comprehensive Assessment Evaluation Form</a>	Date determined by academic program.			
Final draft of thesis/dissertation due to advisor. (Individual programs may have their own due date.)	March 20, 2017	June 9, 2017	July 14, 2016	October 2, 2017
Submit <a href="#">ET Final Submission Form</a> and upload approved ETD to ETD Administrator site for Graduate College review.	<b>May 4, 2017</b>	July 6, 2017	August 10, 2017	December 14, 2017
ETD must be approved by the Graduate College and all other requirements must be met.	<b>May 15, 2017*</b>	July 17, 2017*	August 21, 2017*	December 20, 2017*
<b>COMMENCEMENT EXERCISE</b>	May 6, 2017	December 16, 2017	December 16, 2017	December 16, 2017

\*When you review these due dates, please note that the Graduate College review of theses/dissertations can take as little as a few days or as long as several weeks, depending on the edits that may be required and the number of ETDs waiting to be approved. If your work is not complete and approved by the Graduate College, you will not be able to graduate at this time.

**BSC 662**

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Office Hours: Wednesdays from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.; Tuesdays and Thursday from 11:00 am- 12:00 p.m., or by appointment.

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Office Hours: Mondays 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Week	Dates; Due Dates; Schedule
1	1/9 Course overview and syllabus draft discussion. 1/11 Syllabus review; Introduction to Wikipedia writing: <i>Don't cite it. Write it!</i>
2	1/16 <b>No class meeting</b> 1/18 Wikipedia tutorials (on your own). <b>No class meeting.</b>
3	1/23 Wikipedia review (on your own). <b>No class meeting.</b> <b>1/24 Wikipedia reviews are due to Wikipedia.</b> 1/25 Wikipedia reviews. In class discussion.
4	1/30 Checkpoint: Reference selection and citing (Wikipedia; PowerPoint; Theses and reports) 2/1 References: Managing citations using <b>Mendeley Reference Manager.</b> <b>2/3 Add to a Wikipedia article.</b>
5	2/6 Checkpoint: PowerPoint Review: "Do This! Not That!" 2/8 Checkpoint: Figures and tables: How do they differ? Different format for different purposes. <b>2/10 First draft of your article: To Wikipedia</b>
6	2/13 Checkpoint: Anatomy of a conference presentation. <b>2/15 Peer Review of a Wikipedia articles (on your own by Feb. 17). No class meeting.</b>
7	2/20 Wikipedia in class discussion. <i>Show us what you did!</i> 2/22 Mid-point session. <i>Where are we now? What do you need to know?</i>
8	<b>2/27 Wikipedia article additions and improvements.</b> 2/27 Checkpoint: Writing conventions: Abstracts; <b>Ginger Software</b> [and other stuff such as cover letters] 3/1 Peer Review sessions - Abstract drafts. <b>3/3 Abstract drafts are due to MUOnline.</b>
9	3/6 Individual student conferences (3 or 4 sessions). <b>No class meeting.</b> 3/8 Individual student conferences (3 or 4 sessions). <b>No class meeting.</b>
10	3/13 Individual student conferences (3 or 4 sessions). <b>No class meeting.</b> 3/15 Individual student conferences (3 or 4 sessions). <b>No class meeting.</b> <b>3/17 Last Day to Drop an Individual Course</b>
	3/20/24 <b>Spring Break - no classes</b>
10	3/27 Seminar Presentation (practice session – 2 or 3 presentations). 3/29 Seminar Presentation (practice session - 2 or 3 presentations). <b>3/31 Abstracts are due to MUOnline.</b>
11	4/3 Seminar Presentation (practice session - 2 or 3 presentations). 4/5 Seminar Presentation (practice session - 2 or 3 presentations).
12	4/10 Seminar Presentation (practice session - 2 or 3 presentations). 4/12 Seminar Presentation (practice session - 2 or 3 presentations).
13	4/17 <b>BSC Seminar Conference</b> (3 or 4 presentations). 4/19 <b>BSC Seminar Conference</b> (3 or 4 presentations).
14	4/24 <b>BSC Seminar Conference</b> (3 or 4 presentations). 4/26 <b>BSC Seminar Conference</b> (3 or 4 presentations).