

Scientific Seminar course in English_Syllabus

Instructor: Marco Orru, Ph.D.

Course Description and Objectives:

The oral dissemination and defense of scientific concepts is a fundamental communication tool that students will employ throughout their professional career.

This course is meant to give students practice speaking in English language in front of an audience and to explore topics in detail. Students will research topics and organize in class/ online presentations for their classmates and instructor. The topics may be any aspect of the biological sciences and must be approved by the instructor in advance. The scientific arguments to discuss will be chosen in class during the semester based on actual scientific relevancies and novelty. Topics in English will cover key concepts such as:

- biochemistry
- genetics
- pharmacology
- molecular biology

To help students improve as speakers, each student will receive feedback from the instructor. After your seminar, students should arrange a time to meet with the instructor to discuss their performance.

Expectations and Grades:

Attendance at each seminar is mandatory for all students enrolled. It is expected that students will actively participate by asking questions of the speaker. The effort by students to meet these expectations will be considered in the determination of their final grade.

Each student will give a max 20-minute presentation per topic. Students will be evaluated according to their participation in discussions, their presentation, and their ability to perform the course expectations in a professional and prompt manner. As with all assignments, students should proof-read their work for English grammar and spelling.

Participation in Discussions: After each presentation, students are expected to ask competent and probing questions of speakers.

Presentation: Students will receive a critique and grade from the docent/instructor for their presentations from 1 to 5 points per presentation).

Your presentation grade will be based on the following points:

a) Appearance, mannerism, voice, and address

b) Quality of visual aids

c) Content and knowledge of topic

d) Timing

i) Exceeding the time limits indicated above will result in an automatic letter reduction in seminar grade ii) Finishing their presentation in less than the minimum time will be taken as a poor use of resources and will result in a lower presentation score

e) Response to questions.