

BIOL 8008 - 17B Skills for Success in Biology

Wednesdays 10 am – 11 am

Location: MS Teams

Instructor

Dr. Jeffrey Dason

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Course Description

The purpose of this online course is to help graduate students develop the skills that they will need to succeed in their graduate studies. Students will have the opportunity to write a NSERC or CIHR graduate proposal and review proposals of their peers. In addition, students will present published papers in areas such as Cell and Molecular Biology, Genetics, and Neuroscience. These papers can be related to the students' graduate research work. Papers will be chosen by the student with the help of the instructor.

Grading

NSERC/CIHR Outline (10%) - Grant writing is a critical component of research and is especially important for graduate training. This exercise is designed to ease students into preparing a full proposal by first preparing a 1-page outline as a basis for the eventual full written portion of an NSERC or CIHR proposal. Outlines should be one page long and must include a working title and sections for background information, statement of the problem, hypotheses/predictions, experimental design/methods, expected outcome and significance.

Review of the NSERC/CIHR Outline (5%) - Peer review, whether it be as informal reviews of colleagues' papers/reports, or more formal review of submitted manuscripts and grant applications, is the other critical side of scientific writing. In this exercise, each student will provide feedback on another student's NSERC/CIHR outline. The goal of this blind review is to provide positive, yet critical suggestions to the writer about where the outline might be improved.

NSERC Graduate Proposal - (25%) - This exercise is designed to allow students to prepare the written proposal section of an NSERC/CIHR application. Built from the outline exercise, your 1-page proposal is designed to act as the basis for your own NSERC/CIHR application.

Review of NSERC/CIHR Proposal (10%) - As with the NSERC/CIHR outlines, the same student will be assigned to review their colleague's one-page NSERC proposal and provide positive, yet critical feedback with the goal of improving the student's application.

Seminar Presentation (30%) - Students will students will critically read and present published papers in areas of Biomedical Sciences such as Cell and Molecular Biology, Genetics, and Neuroscience. These papers can be related to the students' graduate research work. Papers will be chosen by the student with the help of the instructor. These presentations will be 30 minutes in length and a discussion of the paper will follow.

Participation (20%) – All students are expected to read papers prior to class and actively contribute to the discussion in class.

Schedule for paper presentations

September 29 – Jeffrey Dason
October 6 – Abuzar Sikandar
October 13 – Reading week
October 20 – Patrick Blendea
October 27 – Rajni
November 3 – Hema Mahendran
November 10 – Shahad Haddad
November 17 – Mary Ibrahim
November 24 – Jovan Djokic
December 1 – Kristina Skurvidayte

Due dates for proposal

Oct 20 NSERC Proposal Outline - Due to me via email

Oct 27 Review of another student's NSERC Proposal Outline - Due to me via email

Nov 13 NSERC Proposal - Due to me via email

Nov 20 Review of another student's NSERC Full Proposal - Due to me via email