

Course Syllabus

BIOS 998: Improving Presentation Skills – Summer 2012

Course Details

- Date: 1st 5-week session, Summer 2012, June 04 - July 06
- Day/Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:30-4:45 pm
- Room: BEAD N172
- Instructors: Jeff Mower
jmower2@unl.edu; 402-472-2130 (phone); BEAD E128 (office)
Anne-Lise Ducluzeau
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Felix Grewe
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- Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:00-3:00 pm

Course Objectives

During the course the students will give short talks based on scientific which are going to be discussed afterwards in a student group. The discussion will include the content of the paper and emphasize on how the student can improve the performance of their presentation. Students will learn:

- New insights in important works of molecular biology and evolution
- How to review a scientific paper in a presentation
- How to clearly structure a presentation
- How to control and use gestures and speech
- How to efficiently use PowerPoint to support your presentation
- How to effectively discuss scientific results and handle constructive reviews of your and others' work

Course Materials

- Journal articles will be selected and provided by instructors

Grading (150 points total):

- Presentation (50 pts): Students will give 20 min talks about a scientific journal article. Points will be divided in student's efforts of presentation preparation (40 pts) and answering questions about the presented scientific paper (10 pts).
- Participation at discussions and in-class activities (50 pts): Students presentation will be discussed in the student group which includes the content of the presented scientific work and how the presenters can improve their presentation. Points for active involvement in discussions will be divided among points for participation at in-class activities.

- Notes (50 pts): Students are required to take notes of questions about the presented scientific work and how the presenters can improve their presentations.

Grading Scale:

A+: 97-100	B+: 87-89.9	C+: 77-79.9	D+: 67-69.9	F: 0-59.9
A: 93-96.9	B: 83-86.9	C: 73-76.9	D: 63-66.9	
A-: 90-92.9	B-: 80-82.9	C-: 70-72.9	D-: 60-62.9	

Guidelines:

- **Make-up assignments:** If there is a foreseeable event that may cause you to miss class, please contact the instructors in advance. Make-up work will only be allowed for documented excusable absences (illness, death in the family, etc.) and must be completed within one week of the original deadline.
- **Honor code:** This course adheres to the honor code (<http://stuafs.unl.edu/ja/code/three.shtml>) and cheating on any assignment will result in a zero grade.
- **Students with disabilities** are encouraged to contact the instructors for a confidential discussion of their individual needs for academic accommodation. It is UNL policy to provide flexible and individualized accommodation to students with documented disabilities that may affect their ability to fully participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. To receive accommodation services, students must be registered with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) office, 132 Canfield Administration, 472-3787 voice or TTY.
- **Tips for doing well in this class:** Complete the assigned reading before class, participate during class, and make use of office hours.

Course schedule:

This schedule is subject to change. Supplemental reading and out-of-class homework may be added when needed.

Date	Topic
June 5	Tips on presenting scientific results
June 7	Tips on using PowerPoint for supporting presentations
June 12	Paper review: Genome sequences
June 14	Paper review: Insights and questions in land plant evolution
June 19	Paper review: Peculiarities of mitochondrial genomes
June 21	Paper review: Endosymbiosis within our grasp: The cpDNA of <i>Paulinella</i>
June 26	Paper review: Genetransfer into the nucleus
June 28	Paper review: Horizontal transfer
July 3	Paper review: Provitamin A accumulation in genetically modified rice
July 5	Concluding discussion and election of the best presentations