BIOLOGY SEMINAR

General Information
Catalog Number, Section, and Term: BIOL 6901. 81, Spring 2013
Title of Course: Biology Seminar
Co-requisites: None
Class Room and Meeting Times and Dates: Dickinson Hall Room 4468, Thursdays 5:30 PM – 6:20 PM
Instructors: Prof. N. Agostino and Dr. Isquith.
Office Location and Office Hours: Prof. Agostino, Dickinson Hall room 4407 by appointment.
201-692-2333, nick@fdu.edu
Dr. Isquith, DH4460, Wed 12-2, Th 1-2, and by appointment.
201-692-2395, Isquith@fdu.edu

Course Description
A series of lectures by invited speakers on topics of current interest. Exposure of students to research developments and techniques in selected areas of specialization. 1credit

Text and Materials
Required text: None.

Teaching Methodologies/Activities
The following will be used to assess student learning:
1. Papers
2. Attendance

Modes of instruction that will be used by the instructor:
Oral presentations by invited speakers

Course Requirements
Paper
• One paper based on a seminar topic of your choice (excluding student research projects) (see schedule).
• The paper is due at least one week before the final seminar. No late papers will be accepted, without extenuating reasons. They may be submitted anytime during the semester. (Why not do it early, when you under less time pressure than at the end of the semester?)
• The reports must be your original work - not copied from any other source. If anything is cited verbatim, you must use quotations.
• Your paper should include a summary of the speaker’s presentation, followed by a discussion of the significance of the work based on a literature search. The discussion should contain additional information on the same topic written by other researchers.
• At least five pertinent literature references (primary sources) are required; they must be properly listed in a “List of Literature” (bibliography) and must be cited in your paper. Appropriate references are from refereed journals or sites. Items such as Wikipedia or magazine articles are not acceptable.
• Grammatical and/or spelling errors will be taken into consideration during grading, so carefully proof read your paper.
• There is no required length, but a thorough presentation should probably be a minimum of five pages.

Attendance and punctuality
• Unexcused absences will affect your grade (see below). It is your responsibility to sign the attendance sheet, which will be circulated each week, either at the beginning or end of seminar. If you believe your absence should be excused, bring in appropriate documentation to the following week’s seminar. After that time your absence will not be excused.
• You must be on-time for all seminars, and stay until the class is dismissed. Being late twice may lower your final grade.
• We request your courteous attention during the lecture presentations. We have assembled a diversified group of speakers, from various institutions, to discuss their work with you. They are guests of Fairleigh Dickinson University and deserve your undivided attention. You are encouraged to ask relevant questions.
All cell phones should be set to vibrate; their usage during seminar is prohibited.

Course Objectives
The objectives (goals) of this course are for you to become competent in knowledge of various topics in biology (program outcome # 7)

Grading policy
Attendance is mandatory and is worth 50% of your grade using the scale below. For an absence to be excused, appropriate documentation is needed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attendance</th>
<th>100% 0 unexcused absence</th>
<th>90% 1 unexcused absence</th>
<th>80% 2 unexcused absences</th>
<th>More than 5 unexcused absences</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>70% 3 unexcused absences</td>
<td>60% 4 unexcused absences</td>
<td>50% 5 unexcused absences</td>
<td>More than 5 unexcused absences will earn a failure in the course.</td>
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Your final grade will be an average of the grade on your paper and on your attendance. The numerical average will be converted to a letter grade using this table:

| Grade | A 100-92 | A- 91-89 | B+ 88-86 | B 85-82 | B- 81-79 | C+ 78-76 | C 75-72 | D 68-60 | F 59-0 |

Rules and Regulations
See FDU’s Academic Integrity Policy