CELL 7871-01 Seminar in Cell and Molecular Biology, Spring 2016
Wed. 2-5 PM and Fri. 2:30-3:30 PM, Lindy Boggs Energy 240

Course Director: Dr. Manjong Han
4011 Percival Stern Hall; mhan@tulane.edu

Office Hours: By appointment

Course Objective: This course is designed to promote reading, writing, oral presentation skills, and critical analysis of various medical, dental, and research related topics. The primary goal of the course is to expose students to material that will increase their understanding of various topics, which also allowing them to practice various skills required in a number of healthcare and research-related professions.

Learning Outcomes: Following successful participation in this class, students will
- have improved oral presentation and listening skills
- be able to review a scientific literature in a critical manner
- be able to communicate effectively within a team environment
- be able to organize and present lecture material to peers
- be able to write a biomedical article
- have gained experience in professional conduct

How individual class components are graded:
1. Individual student presentation (Wed and Fri): The topic should relate in some manner to your research or clinical experience.
   a. For those who are doing volunteer service in hospital, you may choose a disease or disorder which you have encountered in your clinical rotation.
   b. For students doing research in lab, please focus your presentation on the purpose of your research project, and describe the hypothesis, methodologies you are doing, and (anticipating) results/conclusions.

   Each student is required to emphasize their topics at the cell and molecular biology level, first and foremost. Therefore, a simple presentation of clinical case reports won’t guarantee a good grade.

   Each student gives a 20 minutes presentation.

   Three presentations will be given on Wednesday and two presentations on Friday.

   Please turn in your schedule option (provide 3 optional dates) by January 22nd and topic and abstract by 1 week before your scheduled presentation, and complete presentation slides by 2 days before your presentation. Topics and dates are on a “first come first served” basis.

2. Team-presentation of a “scientific lecture” material pertaining to the seminar (Wed):

   Students will be responsible for putting together lecture materials (review paper or book chapter) to provide the general information for Friday department seminar. Materials will be posted on blackboard one week before presentation. Groups of students will present a 40-50 min lecture, and be responsible for answering questions from the audience.
3. **Team-presentation of a research article in a “journal club” format (Fri):** The purpose of a journal club is to discuss recent scientific research papers with a view to better understanding the science behind the paper. Papers may be chosen from works relating to department seminars, and will focus predominantly on aspects of research within cell and molecular biology. Research articles also will be posted via blackboard one week before the journal club date. Each journal club session will be led by a group of students, who will walk us through the paper, providing critical review of the data and concepts presented. Presentations of journal club includes answers of the following questions within 40 minutes:

   i. Main point and purpose of the paper  
   ii. Hypotheses that the authors were trying to investigate  
   iii. Methods  
   iv. Results  
   v. Conclusions

All students are strongly encouraged to contribute to the journal club discussion and contributions can be the form of comments such as answering questions posed by other participants. Because a subject might be overlapped with one of Wednesday lecture, be mindful of minimizing the background introduction part so that same information is not repeated.

For team presentations, please **make a team with 4 students and turn in your schedule optional dates by January 22nd.** Same team is not supposed to present both scientific lecture and journal club from the same topic (or same week).

All presentations must be performed using PowerPoint format. The final version of presentation slides should be submitted by 2 days before presentation.

Presentations will be graded according to:

   i. **Organization:** if presentation is well prepared and organized and easy for the audience to follow  
   ii. **Knowledge:** if knowledge and understanding of background are relevant and clear; if scientific principles are clearly explained; if questions are well answered  
   iii. **Graphics:** if images are appropriate and illustrative (high resolution); if data are legible and clear; if slides are interesting and enhance presentation. Font size in the pictures and diagrams such as graphs and pathways as well as text should be big enough so that audiences of the back of the classroom can read clearly. If needed, it can be overwritten.  
   iv. **Delivery:** if student speaks clearly and uses correct pronunciation; if student makes frequent eye contact and natural hand gestures. Please be mindful of vocal pauses such as “ah, uh, um, etc.” Please avoid reading the screen directly or relying on notes heavily. Each student must know the information presented well enough not to have to look at the screen. Slides should be used as cues, or to provide diagrams, figures, pathways etc. that can be explained in detail; and slides should provide information so that an audience can follow the talk.  
   v. For team presentation, team work will be assessed
vi. For all presentations, punctuality is critical.

vii. Participation.

**Please dress professionally for presentations:**

- Ladies – a dress, dress slacks, and blouse
- Men – slacks, nice shirt and tie

Appropriate footwear is expected. No sneakers or flip-flops.

4. **Attendance and participation in class discussions:** All class participants are required to attend each class meeting and to take part in discussions. Excessive unexcused absence and tardiness (defined as missing or late two or more classes) may result in lowering of the grade.

Participants are expected to act in a professional manner:

- Use of laptops and smart phones is not allowed
- Discussion and chat with your neighbors or doing other things while presentation is not permitted.

Failure to comply with these rules will result in loss of points from the final grade.

**Grading:** Final grades for this course are based on participation in the following endeavors;

1. Individual presentation of research or clinical experiences: 25%
2. Team-presentation of a scientific lecture: 20%
3. Team-presentation of a journal article in a journal club format: 20%
4. Attendance and participation in class discussions: 20%
5. Attendance at departmental seminar & Reviews 15%

**Honor Code:** Students are expected to adhere to the Honor Code of Tulane University and the School of Science and Engineering. Any violations of the Honor Code will be referred to the Honor Board to be sanctioned according to the University guidelines.

“Tulane University recognizes the inherent dignity of all individuals and promotes respect for all people. As “One Wave,” Tulane is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of discrimination based on race, ethnicity, creed, religion, gender, gender identity and sexual orientation, as well as all forms of sexual harassment, including sexual assault, domestic and dating violence, and stalking. If you (or someone you know) has experienced or experiences discrimination, domestic violence, sexual assault or sexual harassment, know that you are not alone. Resources and support are available. Learn more at onewave.tulane.edu. Any and all of your communications on these matters will be treated as either “Strictly Confidential” or “Mostly Confidential” as explained in the chart below.”

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<th>Strictly Confidential</th>
<th>Mostly Confidential</th>
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<td>Except in extreme circumstances, involving imminent danger to one’s self or others, nothing will be shared without your explicit permission.</td>
<td>Conversations are kept as confidential as possible, but information is shared with key staff members so the University can offer resources and accommodations and take action if necessary for safety reasons.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Counseling &amp; Psychological Services (CAPS)</td>
<td>(504) 314-2277</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student Health Center</td>
<td>(504) 865-5255</td>
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<td>Sexual Aggression Peer Hotline and Education (SAPHE)</td>
<td>(504) 654-9543</td>
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Schedule:

1/13 (W)  Introduction
1/15 (F)  No class
1/20 (W)  Kaplan (Full MACT exam; Bio/Biochem)
1/22 (F)  No class
1/27 (W)  Kaplan (Psych/Soc)
1/29 (F)  Individual presentations 1 (2)
2/3 (W)   Kaplan (CARS)
2/5 (F)   No class
2/10 (W)  Individual presentations 2
2/12 (F)  Individual presentations 3
2/17 (W)  Kaplan (Chem/Phys)
2/19 (F)  Individual presentations 4
2/24 (W)  Kaplan (Bio/Biochem)
2/26 (F)  Individual presentations 5
3/2 (W)   Kaplan (Psych/Soc)
3/4 (F)   Group presentation 1 - Journal club
3/9 (W)   Group presentation 2 - Lecture
3/11 (F)  Group presentation 3 - Journal club
3/16 (W)  Kaplan (Full MCAT Exam)
3/18 (F)  Group presentation 4 - Journal club
3/23, 3/25 Spring break (No class)
3/30 (W)  Individual presentations 6
4/1 (F)   Individual presentations 7
4/6 (W)   Individual presentation makeup
4/8 (F)   Individual presentations 8
4/13 (W)  Group presentation 5 - Lecture
4/15 (F)  Group presentation 6 - Journal club
4/20 (W)  Group presentation 7 - Lecture
4/22 (F)  Group presentation 8 - Journal club

* The schedule is subject to change.