

SIO 291: Biology Student Presentations

Spring Quarter 2014

Section ID: 802000, 2 units, S/U only

Tuesdays from 11:00 to 12:20 pm

4500 Hubbs Hall

The first class session is Tuesday April 1 (this is not a joke...).

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Why is this class important?

Being able to communicate your research effectively to a broad audience with diverse backgrounds is of fundamental importance to any scientist. Whether its in lab or national meetings, qualifying and defense talks, or job seminars, it's important to be a good communicator. This course is designed so that through practice and critiquing others you can learn the skills to improve your oral and poster presentations. Following the presentations, non-class members are dismissed to allow peer discussion of the presentations. Both open discussion and written comments will be solicited to provide positive and constructive feedback to the presenters.

Who should sign up for this class?

All 2nd-4th year MB students should enroll, it is actually a mandatory part of the curriculum. Students with conflicts should contact the instructor before the first class. 1st year MB students are encouraged to attend (you will learn a lot) but should not register. BO students "should" also enroll but it is not a requirement, it would only benefit yourselves.

Since the class is graded entirely based on participation, attendance is important. If you have scheduling problems, talk to me.

What is the class structure?

Each week there will be two or three oral presentations.

2nd year students will practice their 12 minute presentations for the upcoming spring Research Symposium on May 16 (see below). These sessions will not be open to the public.

3rd-4th year students will give 20 minute talks in sessions that are open to the public. You are expected to give two presentations during your three years in the class so be prepared to give that second talk.

Contact the instructor in advance if you have a date preference. If you want to practice a talk before an important event, this is a great opportunity to get constructive feedback from your fellow students.

What's the Biology Student Research Symposium?

Friday May 17 is the Biology Student Research Symposium. 2nd year MB students will give oral presentations that they have already practiced and improved based on feedback from this class.

The first class meeting will be organizational and include a short lecture containing tips on giving oral and poster presentations.