Ohio University  
MCB 7410 100, Seminar in Molecular and Cellular Biology (call # 8867)  
Fall 2017

Tuesday 4:35-5:55 pm, Porter Hall 417

Instructor: Dr. Sarah Wyatt  
Office: 508 Porter  
Email: wyatts@ohio.edu  
Phone: 593-1133  
Office hours: by appointment, please e-mail or talk with me at seminar

Course Overview: The course is designed as a seminar to provide a more in-depth understanding of specific topics in molecular and cellular biology. Students will be expected to read the current literature and join in discussions. Students will also be expected to present one seminar per year to gain experience in preparing a talk and improve their communication and language skills.

Course Objectives: At the completion of the course, the student should be able to
1) retrieve, critically evaluate and synthesize scientific information from the primary literature  
2) use information from the literature or scientific results to design and present a seminar style talk  
3) evaluate presentations from colleagues and incorporate those points into their own presentations.

Course Web Page: on Blackboard, go to https://blackboard.ohio.edu /LOGIN ➔ OHIO username and password ➔ LOGIN

Required Readings:  
Primary and secondary manuscripts from the research literature (to be selected by the presenter).

Guidelines for Students and Faculty:  
1) The MCB student seminar is a 45-50 minute oral presentation (unless otherwise noted) on a specific area of molecular and/or cellular biology.

2) With the exception of first year students, all MCB students are required to present one seminar per year. Students graduating within the academic year will be allowed to substitute his/her dissertation seminar in place of a class seminar to fulfill the requirement. In addition, more advanced students (3rd or 4th year students) may give a 45-50 minute seminar on their current research. Students may choose this option ONCE. A student may also give a recruiting seminar at a neighboring college or university to fulfill the requirement. See the MCB director for more detail. Any student (other than first year) who fails to present a seminar during the academic year will be given a grade of “I” for MCB 740 during the spring semester. The “I” will automatically convert to an “F” if a seminar is not given the following fall semester. All students (including first year students) will be required to register for MCB 7410 when offered.

3) Abstract requirements – deadline 1 week prior to presentation before seminar  
a. A single page typewritten abstract (in MS Word) with no more than 10 references should be prepared and sent via e-mail to Eileen Schulz (delehant@ohio.edu) with a copy sent to the course coordinator. The abstract should be a concise summary of the talk, including introduction, key methods and results, and conclusions/discussion. The abstract should include a formal title/author line (title of talk, student’s name and affiliation and the date of the seminar at the top of the page). References should be listed at the end of the abstract in an acceptable scientific journal style.

b. The abstract will be posted at the MCB web site: www ohio.edu/mcb for all MCB students and faculty to read. Any changes in this course will be posted on Blackboard as announcements and e-mailed to students using the OU e-mail system.
4) **Requirements and helpful hints** for students presenting seminars:
   a) Select your topic and papers and have them approved by the seminar coordinator as early as possible before your talk with a **minimum of 2 weeks prior to your presentation.**
   b) You need to tell a story. You should have an introduction, 2-3 main points with evidence supporting those points and a conclusion and acknowledgements.
   c) Audiovisual aids (i.e., PowerPoint) should be used in the presentation. Most tables and figures from journal articles or books will require enlarging for those seated in the back of the room to see. No more than two figures or tables should be placed on each slide.
   d) Remember: your slides are for your audience, not for you to read!
   e) Practice the seminar beforehand, alone and with other students, and/or your advisor present. These people can give you helpful suggestions for a better seminar and thus as better grade.
   f) Use a pointer and stand next to the projection screen when discussing slides.
   g) Look at your audience, NOT your slides. Make eye contact.

5) **Snacks and beverages** are provided at the seminar. Eileen will prepare the cart with a cookie tray, hot beverage mixes, cups, napkins, etc. The student responsible for snacks can pick up the cart in the Environmental and Plant Biology office, Porter Hall room 315. Eileen will have copies of the seminar evaluation forms prepared and on the cart in an orange folder. After the seminar return the cart to room 315. Eileen will put things away when she arrives in the morning.
   
   If, Eileen is out sick and/or not available on a Tuesday, the snacks are stored in Porter 303 in the lower cabinets to the left when you walk in the door. The door is usually not locked, but if it is you can get the key from Martha Bishop (Plant Biology Lab coordinator, room 302 Porter Hall). The snack person is responsible for making sure the snack cart with hot water gets to the seminar site and back to the storage area safely.

6) **Grading:** Attendance of all class meetings is expected. The final grade will be determined by performance on assignments, active participation in seminar discussions and regular attendance (see attendance policy). Grading is up to the instructor, but will include feedback from faculty and student comment sheets. All comments will remain anonymous. The instructor will meet individually with each presenter to provide feedback on the presentation. Students not presenting a seminar in any given semester will receive a CR for the course contingent on attendance and participation. Students presenting will receive a letter grade of A-F, depending on their performance, attendance and participation. **No more than two absences** are allowed for any student. **Students must inform the seminar instructor PRIOR to an absence.** MCB students are also expected to attend all MCB sponsored visiting speaker seminars.

**Academic dishonesty:** The Ohio University Student Code of Conduct prohibits all forms of academic dishonesty, including cheating, plagiarism, forgery, furnishing false information and alteration or misuse of university documents, records or identification. **Any evidence of academic dishonesty in any document submitted for grading, as defined above and including falsification or misrepresentation of data and plagiarism (copying material directly or not properly giving credit for ideas from others) will result in a grade of zero (0) for that assignment and may be reported to the Office of Community Standards and Student Responsibility Judiciaries for further action.** A second offense at any time during your academic career will result in automatic failure of the class, and a grade of F will be assigned. A student may appeal academic sanctions through the grade appeal process (the appeal-of-grade procedure), and if reported to the Judiciaries, a student will have the right to a full hearing. For additional information about Academic Misconduct or the Ohio University Student Code of Conduct, consult [http://www.ohio.edu/communitystandards/#students](http://www.ohio.edu/communitystandards/#students)
**Intellectual Property:** The lectures, classroom activities, and all materials associated with this class and developed by the instructor are copyrighted in the name of Sarah E. Wyatt and may not be used by others without expressed written permission. Slides and materials presented by student are the property of the student and may not be used by others without expressed written permission.