

BIOLOGY 495-H04: HONORS SEMINAR IN BIOLOGY

INSTRUCTOR:	Dr. Eric Fortune ▪ 973-596-7896	EMAIL:	efortune@njit.edu
OFFICE:	420D Central King Bldg.	OFFICE HOURS:	T: 9:00am-11:00am or by appointment
COURSE SCHEDULE:	M: 2:30pm – 5:20pm ▪ CKB 220	COURSE WEBSITE:	https://canvas.njit.edu/

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This honors seminar allows students the opportunity to work closely with an instructor in a specific area of the instructor's expertise. Students will be required to bring together interests and skills developed in this and previous courses to make in-depth oral and written presentations on a topic of their choosing. This capstone course will capture the spirit and breadth of the field of Biology through a guided investigation and literature review associated with the chosen subject. This course satisfies NJIT's Honors Capstone requirement.

PREREQUISITES: Senior level standing or Junior level standing with the permission of the Instructor.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: 1) Improve your ability to access scientific literature in your field of interest, 2) Improve your writing and presentation skills, and 3) Increase your knowledge of a particular subject in biology.

INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS: There is no required textbook but we recommend "Writing Papers in the Biological Sciences" by McMillan 5th Edition (ISBN: 978-0-312-64971-5) as a supplement, if you feel that you need it. You will be expected to build a "research notebook" that can be either a "hard copy" binder or a web page where you will organize and archive your material.

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS: Any additional materials required for class (primary literature, etc) will be provided through Canvas site (<https://canvas.njit.edu/> UCID required), handed out in class, or distributed via web link. Be sure to edit your Canvas profile to list an email address that you check regularly.

CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT: Be aware of the rules set forth in the [University Code on Academic Integrity](#). In brief, the instructors will not allow cheating or plagiarism. This is doubly important in this class, as your grade will be determined primarily by your performance on a single writing project. All writing assignments will be submitted to Turnitin.com. If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism or cheating, please ask the instructors, or refer to the academic integrity code: [Academic Integrity Code](#).

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION: If you have a special need that may require accommodation or assistance, please inform the instructors of that fact as soon as possible and no later than the end of the second class meeting. Students with disabilities who require accommodations must contact Dr. Phyllis Bolling, Center for Counseling and Psychological Services (C-CAPS), Campbell Hall, (entry level), Room 205, (973) 596-3420.

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GRADING: The final grade in this course is determined as follows:

4 Status Reports	100pts
In Class Presentations	70pts
Assignments	30pts
Final Presentation	100pts
Final Written Project	150pts
TOTAL	450pts

GRADING SCALE			
A	90-100	B+	85-89
B	80-84	C+	75-79
C	65-74	D	50-64
F	0-49		

CLASS ATTENDANCE IS REQUIRED: Attendance will be taken and attendance and participation is expected. Two unexcused absences will result in a 5% reduction in the final grade, and a third unexcused absence will result in an additional loss of 5%.

MAKE-UP POLICY: Assignments: There are no make-ups for in class assignments **EXCEPT** for a written excused absence. Information on homework assignments will be posted on Canvas following class, and it will be the student's responsibility to check for this. Make-up work must be completed within one week following a missed class.

Examples of excused absences: Serious illness, school trips, major religious holidays, and death of a family member. Unexcused absences include minor illness, transportation problems, non-emergency appointments, traveling home for the weekend, etc. **Written verification, e.g., doctor's note, traffic report, or court records, will be required.** If the absence is excused, the student will be offered the chance to make-up work at a time convenient for student and instructor. For anticipated absences due to observance of religious holidays, the student must notify the instructor in writing in advance.

LATE WORK: Assignments will be due at the beginning of the class as outlined in their descriptions in the syllabus. If a student must be absent on the day work is due, it will be that student's responsibility to turn the assignment in **early** or make arrangements for someone else to turn it in on the due date. Other possibilities include submitting an electronic version via email. Late work will receive a penalty of 10% off per day late.

OTHER POLICIES: No cell phone usage in class, please turn off or to silent mode.

HINTS/TIPS:

- Read any assigned articles/readings ahead of time. We will often have discussions in class (during which your participation will be noted) –so it may be helpful if you have actually read what we are discussing.
- If you don't understand a concept or assignment, ask (more than a couple of hours ahead of the due date, please).
- DO NOT Procrastinate!
- DO NOT Plagiarize (collaboration is fine)!
- Choose topics in which you have a genuine interest. This will make your hard work more enjoyable and worthwhile.

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SCHEDULE AND TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE: BIOL 495 Spring 2020 Proposed Schedule (instructors may modify schedule slightly as needed)

WEEK/DATE	RESEARCH ADVISOR	STUDENT
1: Jan 27		Class: Research binder organization, presentation basics, review papers. STUDENTS WORK ON: Explore research topics related to research advisor's area. Prepare 5 min "Sales Pitch" presentation of 2 topics. ASSIGN 1: Prepare 1pg Handout on each of 2 topics (10pts) SUBMIT: Handout (Canvas and Notebook Website)
2: Feb 3		Class presentations session: "Sales Pitch" (10pts)
3: Feb 10	Weekly meeting with student	STUDENTS WORK ON: Find 10 papers on chosen topic, read and prepare annotated bibliography. Select a Key Paper and prepare presentation slides SUBMIT: Key Paper slides (Canvas) SUBMIT: Bibliography (Canvas and Notebook Website)
4: Feb 17	Status Report #1 Meeting	Class presentations sessions: Key Paper (30pts) STUDENTS WORK ON: Prepare Outline
5: Feb 24	Weekly meeting with student	STUDENTS WORK ON: Add Introduction text (2 pages minimum) to your Outline. SUBMIT: Outline (Canvas and Notebook Website) SUBMIT: signed Status report #1 (Canvas)
6: Mar 2	Weekly meeting with student	STUDENTS WORK ON: Prepare Introduction slides SUBMIT: Introduction slides (Canvas) SUBMIT: Outline with Text (Canvas and Notebook Website)
7: Mar 9	Status Report #2 Meeting	Class presentations session : Introduction (30 pts) STUDENTS WORK ON: Prepare Rough draft #1 and Abstract SUBMIT: Abstract (Canvas and Notebook Website)
8: Mar 16		MARCH 15-22: SPRING BREAK – NO CLASSES
9: Mar 23	Weekly meeting with student	Class presentations session: Introduction (30pts) STUDENTS WORK ON: Rough draft #1 (text in most sections, 9+pgs total) ASSIGN 2: Prepare Self evaluation (10pts) SUBMIT: Rough draft #1 (Canvas and Notebook Website) SUBMIT: Self evaluation (Canvas) SUBMIT: signed Status report #2 (Canvas)
10: Mar 30	Weekly meeting with student	STUDENTS WORK ON: Prepare Rough draft #2 (text in all sections, 15+pgs total) SUBMIT: Rough draft #2 (Canvas and Notebook website)
11: Apr 6	Status Report #3 Meeting	STUDENTS WORK ON: Peer review ASSIGN 3: Fill in peer review form (10 pts) SUBMIT: Peer review form and peer reviewed draft with comments (Canvas and Notebook Website)
12: Apr 13	Weekly meeting with student	STUDENTS WORK ON: Revise Rough draft #2 based on peer review SUBMIT: Revised rough draft #2 (Canvas and Notebook Website) SUBMIT: signed Status report #3 (Canvas)

13: Apr 20	Status Report #4 Meeting	STUDENTS WORK ON: Prepare Final presentation SUBMIT: Final slides (<i>Canvas</i>)
14: Apr 27	Weekly meeting with student	<i>Class presentations session on Final work (100 pts)</i> STUDENTS WORK ON: Prepare Final manuscript (due midnight 5/7)
15: May 4	Weekly meeting with student	<i>Class presentations session on Final work (100 pts)</i> SUBMIT: signed Status report #4 (<i>Canvas</i>) SUBMIT: Audience Questionnaire 5 pts (<i>Canvas</i>)
16: May 5		▶ <i>Turn in Final written manuscript by Midnight 5/5 (150 pts)</i>
FINAL EXAM WEEK: MAY 8-14, 2020		