



BCB 5810 Bioinformatics Colloquium

Instructors:

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Office Hour: by appointment

Class Meeting Time/Location:

Time: Monday at 2:10 - 3:00pm

Location: 334 Macelwane Hall

Credits/Pre-requisites:

0 or 1 Credit

None. Undergraduate students must have permission of the course instructor and the Associate Dean for Graduate Education to enroll.

Course Description:

The course provides students with current information about studies in bioinformatics and computational biology through presentations given by faculty members, students, and invited speakers. Students who enroll for credit must present a 20-30 minute talk as part of the seminar, demonstrating their oral communication skills while presenting technical content.

Learning Objectives:

All students will be able to:

- identify and critique styles and formats of scientific oral presentations
- gain exposure and knowledge of current research approaches associated with the field of Bioinformatics

For students taking the course for credit, they will be able to:

- design an outline of a research talk
- deliver an effective research presentation
- judge the quality of research presentations

Course Textbook/Reading Materials (optional):

No textbook is required for this course.

Course Expectations:

For those enrolled for **zero** credit, attendance at the talks is expected unless excused in advance by the instructor.



For those enrolled for **one** credit, assignments and the presentation will serve as the basis for your grade. It is expected that students will also attend the talks unless excused in advance by the instructor.

Assignments:

1. Critique of three departmental talks: Chose three talks given throughout the semester and record effective and ineffective aspects of the presentations.
2. Design a talk on your application or development of bioinformatic software tools or a current primary research paper: Create a power point presentation and submit to the instructor at least 3 days before the scheduled presentation. Students will then meet with the instructor to review the presentation and incorporate suggested changes.
3. Presentation: Students will give a 20-30 minute talk to the class and other faculty members, followed by a question and answer period. Students will also meet with the instructor within one week after the talk to review comments from participants.
4. Participation: Students are expected to attend class and participate in discussions. Should students have an unexcused absence, they will be asked to review a Tegrity recording of the talk, or review a recent paper associated with the topic and write a short (1 page) review.

Grading Scheme

Course Item	Percent of Final Grade
Critique of 3 talks by outside speaker	10%
Designing talk	20%
Presentation	60%
Participation	10%
Total	100%

Final grades for the course will be based on the following scale. The instructor reserve the right to make adjustments to grades based on overall performance in the course. There will be no opportunity for “extra credit” to improve grades that have already been earned. Bargaining for grades will not be tolerated.

Letter Grade	F	D	C-	C	C+	B-	B	B+	A-	A
%	<60	≥60 <70	≥70 <73	≥73 <77	≥77 <80	≥80- <83	≥83 <87	≥87 <90	≥90 <93	≥93

Attendance policy:

You are expected to attend every lecture and take notes. There is no makeup for missed classes unless you demonstrate in advance (and agreed by the instructor) that a significant life-event prevents you from attending class or if you have a documented emergency.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND HONESTY

Students are expected to be honest in their academic work. The University reserves the right to penalize any student whose academic conduct at any time is, in its judgment, detrimental to the University. Such conduct shall include cases of plagiarism, collusion,



cheating, giving or receiving or offering or soliciting information in examinations, or the use of previously prepared material in examinations or quizzes. Violations should be reported to your course instructor, who will investigate and adjudicate them according to the policy on academic honesty of the College of Arts and Sciences. If the charges are found to be true, the student may be liable for academic or disciplinary probation, suspension, or expulsion by the University. Students should review the College of Arts and Sciences policy on Academic Honesty (<http://www.slu.edu/x16363.xml>).

STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS-DISABILITY SERVICES

In recognition that people learn in a variety of ways and that learning is influenced by multiple factors (e.g., prior experience, study skills, learning disability), resources to support student success are available on campus. Students who think they might benefit from these resources can find out more about:

- Course-level support (e.g., faculty member, departmental resources, etc.) by asking your course instructor.
- University-level support (e.g., tutoring/writing services, Disability Services) by visiting the Student Success Center (BSC 331) or by going to www.slu.edu/success. Students who believe that, due to a disability, they could benefit from academic accommodations are encouraged to contact Disability Services at 314-977-8885 or visit the Student Success Center. Confidentiality will be observed in all inquiries.

Course instructors support student accommodation requests when an approved letter from Disability Services has been received and when students discuss these accommodations with the instructor after receipt of the approved letter.

COURSE CONTENT DISCLAIMER

In this course, students may be required to read text or view materials that they may consider offensive. The ideas expressed in any given text do not necessarily reflect the views of the instructor, the English Department, the Writing Program, or Saint Louis University. Course materials are selected for their historical and/or cultural relevance, or as an example of stylistic and/or rhetorical strategies and techniques. They are meant to be examined in the context of intellectual inquiry of the sort encountered at the university level.

WRITING CENTER

I encourage you to take advantage of the writing services in the Student Success Center; getting feedback benefits writers at all skill levels. Trained writing consultants can help with any writing, multimedia project, or oral presentation. During the one-on-one consultations, you can work on everything from brainstorming and developing ideas to crafting strong sentences and documenting sources. These services do fill up, so please make an appointment! For more information, or to make, change, or cancel an appointment, call 977-3484 or visit <http://www.slu.edu/writingservices.xml>.



Tentative schedules

Week	Date	Speaker Name	Speaker Affiliation	Title
1	8/22/16	All Hands Meeting		
2	8/29/16	Tae Seok Moon	Washington University	Synthetic biology: constructing programmable cells
3	9/5/16	No Seminar (Labor Day)		
4	9/12/16	Anderw Yoo	WashU School of Medicine	
5	9/19/16	Jeremy Buhler	Washington University	
6	9/26/16	Dale Dorsett	SLU School of Medicine	
7	10/3/16	Blake Meyers	Danforth, Mizzou	
8	10/10/16	No Seminar (Midterm)		
9	10/17/16	Shaukat Rangwala	MoGene	
10	10/24/16	Rajeev Aurora	SLU School of Medicine	
11	10/31/16	TBD		
12	11/7/16	Barry Goldman	Monsanto	
13	11/14/16	Ha Dang	WashU Genome Institute	
14	11/21/16	TBD		
15	11/28/16	TBD		
16	12/5/16	Student Presentations		