

BIO 1109-001 Fall 2014

Topics in Modern Biology. This seminar series is designed to give you a broad exposure to current topics in modern biology and to help you gain the skills needed to relate these topics to the organismal biology overview provided in BIO 1108.

This section of BIO 1109 (001) is associated with BIO 1108. There is another section of BIO 1109 affiliated with BIO 1107. Check to make sure that you are enrolled in the correct section.

Instructor

Dr. John Cooley

Contact information

- Office: TLS 81
- Phone: [REDACTED]
- Email: [REDACTED]
- Office Hours: Thursdays 1:30-3:30 PM
- Or by appointment at: [REDACTED]
- Website: HuskyCT



Meetings

- Tuesdays 3:30-4:20
- FS 25 (Family Studies Building)

Objectives

By the end of the course, you should be able to

- Discuss a broad array of topics related to ecology and evolutionary biology
- Formulate targeted questions and respond to scientific research
- Comprehend primary, peer-reviewed literature
- Write a scientific research summary.

Grading

<i>Item</i>	<i>Points Each</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Total Points</i>	<i>Due Date</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Written Questions	10	8	80		53%
Reflection Paper	25	2	50		33%
Paper Presentation	10	1	10		6.67%
Research Summary Draft	0	1	0		0%
Peer Review	10	1	10		6.67%
Research Summary Final	0	1	0		0%
Total			150		100%

Descriptions of Assignments

All written assignments completed outside of class should be submitted through HuskyCT SafeAssign as uploaded Word documents. If I can't open your assignment, I can't grade it, so please check your submissions. Assignments are outlined here with due dates; more details on each assignment will be posted to HuskyCT.

All papers should be double spaced in 12 point font with one inch margins. You must include your first and last name, the course (BIOL 1109), and the assignment (e.g., reflection paper, research summary) in the document header. See the sample document on HuskyCT. All assignments are due by midnight on the due date. Absolutely no late submissions will be accepted for the research summary. For all other assignments, you will lose 1 point per 24 hour period after the assignment is due for late submission and you may not submit assignments more than 2 weeks after the deadline. Please leave yourself enough before the deadline so that you can remedy any technical problems without incurring a penalty.

Written Questions

Write a short question following a weekly presentation. You should try to cite one article of primary scientific literature, using APA format (<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>). In most cases, finding this literature will be easy—the speaker may have published his or her work, or somebody in the same lab will have. In other cases, the speaker may provide background readings. If you're stuck, ask for help. You should also make sure that the question you ask has some bearing on the topics discussed in BIO 1108. Then, submit the question to the presenter. When you get a response, include your question, the presenter's response, and your analysis of the response in one document. If you need help communicating with a presenter, don't hesitate to ask!

One excellent way to “test drive” your question is to ask it in person at the end of the presentation—then you can refine it, write it down, and submit it as a written question.

Ground Rules

- You must have attended the presentation that you are asking a question about
- You must submit eight (8) **Written Questions** over the course of the semester.
- Submit your **Written Questions** via SafeAssign no later than one week after the presentation the question is about.

Reflection Paper

Write a short, **Reflection Paper** of a weekly presentation that encapsulates the main point of the talk. You should cite at least one article of primary scientific literature, using APA format (<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>). In most cases, finding this literature will be easy—the speaker may have published his or her work, or somebody in the same lab will have. In other cases, the speaker may provide

background readings. If you're stuck, ask for help. The objective of this assignment is to help you learn to take concise and informative notes. Be sure to include the following in your answer: Speaker's name and affiliation, broader interests in his/her field of research, the main focus for the particular project(s) discussed, and study system. You should also make sure that you make some connections between the topic of the presentation and the topics discussed in BIO 1108. In some cases, this task may be easier than in others!

Your second Reflection Paper should be no less than two pages in length and must include a reference section in APA format with at least two papers. Submit one copy via Husky CT by 18 November 2014. Also bring a hard copy to class on 18 November 2014, using an alias instead of your name. We will then trade papers, and you will conduct a peer review before 2 December 2014, when we will return the papers to their authors.

Ground Rules

- Grammar and spelling count!
- Reflection papers should be one page in length
- Submit your responses via SafeAssign
- You must have attended the presentation that you are writing about
- You must submit two (2) **Reflection Papers** over the course of the semester.
- Your first reflection paper is due on 14 October 2014.
- Your second reflection paper is due on 5 December 2014.

Research Summary

This paper provides an opportunity for you to learn more about a research topic you found particularly interesting. Using the skills covered in class, you will need to find and summarize at least two primary peer reviewed research articles written by your presenter of choice. Research summaries should be three pages in length and must include a reference section in APA format with the papers you used to formulate your summary. The draft of your research summary is due as hard copy in class on 18 November 2014. We will then trade papers, and you will conduct a peer review before the next class and discuss reviews with your assigned partner during the last class. The final draft of your research summary is due on 2 December 2014.

Ground Rules

- Grammar and spelling count!
- Reflection papers should be no more than three pages in length
- You should bring a printed copy of your draft to class on 18 November 2014
- Use a pseudonym as your name on the draft
- We will trade drafts in class, and you will conduct a peer review by the next class
- Submit your final, revised summaries via SafeAssign

Meeting Schedule

Date	Name	Department
8/26/14	John Cooley	EEB
9/2/14	David Goldhamer	MCB
9/9/14	Eric Schultz	EEB
9/16/14	Chris Simon	EEB
9/23/14	Margaret Rubega	EEB
9/30/14	Peter Gogarten	MCB
10/7/14	Paper Discussion	EEB
10/14/14	Gene Likens	EEB
10/21/14	Katiria Flores	MCB
10/28/14	Li Wang	PNB
11/4/14	Joshua Lubner	PNB
11/11/14	Jill Wegrzyn	Bioinformatics Facility
11/18/14	John Cooley	EEB
12/2/14	Collections	Collections

Getting help

Stuck? Need help? Ask!

Email is the best way to contact me, but you must put "BIO 1109" in the subject line to ensure that your message does not get filtered as SPAM.

The most common mistake made by students is failure to read and follow all instructions. Read carefully and ask questions!

The second most common mistake made by students is to lose control of the calendar. Your success in this course depends on your motivation to make due dates and schedule meetings with me. Students who are more highly motivated tend to do better.

The Writing Center has a section of its web site devoted specifically to advice on writing in biology (http://www.writingcenter.uconn.edu/s_biology.php) with a lot of superb information. Review this site during the first two weeks of the semester as it will serve you well for the assignments. Pay particular attention to the "Practical Guide to Reading the Primary Literature in Biology" (http://www.writingcenter.uconn.edu/pdf/Practical_Guide_to_Reading_the_Primary_Literature_in_Biology.pdf).

Students With Disabilities: Students who need accommodations should contact the Center for Students with Disabilities as soon as possible to verify their eligibility for reasonable accommodations. For more information, please go to <http://www.csd.uconn.edu/>.

Additional Expectations

If you are unable to attend class for any reason, please alert me as soon as possible, but certainly before class. The sooner you tell me, the easier it will be to arrange a make-up assignment. You are responsible for all assignments even if you miss class, regardless of the reason.

I cannot give “extra-credit” under any circumstances. To do so would be unfair to other students who were not given the same opportunity to gain such credit.

Academic misconduct will result in lowered grades, failure of the course, or other disciplinary actions. You must cite any references used in your written assignments and the papers you submit must be your own original work. Please see the University policy on this topic at: http://www.community.uconn.edu/academic_misconduct_faq.html. If you turn in a paper that you did not write, that is not based on your ideas, or that does not appropriately cite other peoples’ work, you will almost certainly fail the course.