Course: **BIOL 4800.001**
Course Title: **Biology Seminar**
Semester: Fall 2013
Time: Friday's 2:00-3:20 PM
Meeting Place: ENV (Environmental Science Bldg) 110
First day of class: Friday, August 30, 2013

Instructor: Dr. Jyoti Shah
Office: Life Sciences Building –B418
Office Hours: (M) 10:00-11:00 AM
Phone: (940) 565-3535
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Course Description:
This seminar course is designed to make students aware of cutting-edge research underway in diverse areas of Biology. Weekly presentations will be made by invited speakers actively engaged in research in Biological Sciences and related areas.

Course Objectives:
By the end of the course, you will be able to:

- Have an increased awareness of the importance of scientific research
- Understand scientific methodology, how research is conducted in a scientific manner, including the formation and testing of hypothesis, data collection and interpretation

Course Requirements:
Students enrolled in this course are expected to:

- Record their attendance for the seminar with the coordinator (sign-up sheet will be available at each seminar).
- Arrive to class prior to the start of the seminar and stay for the entire presentation, including the discussion that follows the presentation. The seminar time is scheduled between **2:00 -3:20 PM**.
- If required (see below), hand in a written (2-page) summary for at least one seminar presentation. This summary can be used to make-up for one missed seminar.

Students are strongly encouraged to ask questions during the discussion that follows the speaker's presentation. In addition, students are encouraged to look over the speaker's web site in advance of the seminar, so that they are more familiar with the research subject and thus get more from the presentation.

***Attendance*:** You are allowed only one absence without penalty.

- For every seminar class you miss **in excess of one**, one letter grade will be deducted.
- You may miss two classes and still earn an A, if you submit a written summary of one seminar **that you attended**. Thus, the written summary can count for one class day attendance. See below for additional information on what to include in a summary and when to submit the summary.

Written Summary: A written summary paper of a seminar you attended can be used as a make-up for **ONE** missed seminar. You are allowed a maximum of one written summary submission for the semester.

- The summary paper should be a two page summary of any one seminar presentation that you attended. On page 1, the summary should contain your name and ID#, identify the

speaker, her/his affiliation, title and date of presentation. On Page 2, in your own words describe the research problem being investigated, the rationale for the approach, a brief, general description of methods used and the major results and conclusions of the work presented. The summary should be prepared from the material presented during the seminar- it should not be a website write-up! Plagiarism will result in a 'F' grade.

- The summary **is due the Tuesday following the seminar** for which you are submitting a summary (e.g. *You decide to submit a summary for the Seminar that you attended on Friday September 6. Your summary will be due latest by 5:00PM Tuesday September 10.* ***Late summaries will not be accepted***) .
- The summary can be submitted to me immediately after the seminar (most preferred by me). Alternatively, it can be dropped at my office or sent to me via email (Shah@unt.edu).
- You are allowed only ONE summary paper submission during the semester.

GRADING: Final grade is based on **attendance** and an optional **written summary**
Examples of grade scenarios:

- Attend all seminars (or miss only one seminar) → Final Grade earned = A
- If you miss 2 seminars AND turn in the summary paper on time →Final Grade earned =A.
- If you miss 2 seminars AND fail to turn in the summary paper on time→Final Grade earned =B.
- If you miss 3 seminars AND turn in the paper on time → Final Grade earned =B
- If you miss 3 seminars AND do not turn in your summary paper on time→ Final Grade earned = C
- If you miss 4 seminars AND turn in your summary paper on time → Final Grade earned =C
- If you miss 4 seminars AND do not turn in your summary paper on time → Final Grade earned =D
- If you miss 5 seminars AND turn in your summary paper on time → Final Grade earned =D
- 5 misses or more and no paper → Final Grade earned =F.

Website: https://learn.unt.edu/ (Blackboard)

This will be the official site for this course. Course Information, a list of the scheduled seminar speakers, seminar titles and abstracts will be are posted on this website. Announcements will also be posted weekly. In addition, communication pertaining to this course will also be made through this website.

Disabilities: The Department of Biological Sciences and the University of North Texas complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 in making reasonable accommodation for qualified students with disabilities. If you have a qualifying disability as defined in the ADA and would like to request accommodation, please see the instructor and or contact the Office of Disability Accommodation at (940) 565-4323 during the first week of class.

Fall 2013 BIOL4800 Seminar Class Schedule

Meets: Friday's **2:00- 3:20 PM** Where: **ENV 110**
Attendance: Mandatory

Date	Speaker, affiliation, UNT host
Aug 30	**Ed Dzialowski,** University of North Texas (host: *Jyoti Shah*) Title: *Ontogeny of an endothermic furnace: Thermoregulation in birds*
Sept 6	**Matthew Fujita**, University of Texas-Arlington (host: *Jeff Johnson*) Title: *Biodiversity genomics of reptiles*

Sept 13 **H. Arthur Woods**, University of Montana (host: *Ed Dzialowski*)
Title: *Roles for noise in physiological systems: destructive and constructive*

Sept 20 **Aswani Volety,** Florida Gulf University (host: *Aaron Roberts*)
Title: *Canaries in the coal mine: role of bivalves in estuarine management*

Sept 27 **George Cobb**, Baylor University (host: *Tom LaPoint)*
Title: *Nanomaterial effects on Xenopus laevis and bioaccumulation in Lumbriculus variegatus*

Oct 4 **Saikat Mukhopadhyay**, UT Southwestern (host: *Jannon Fuchs*)
Title: *GPCRs, Hedgehog signaling, and primary cilia*

Oct 11 **Edwin Weeber**, University of South Florida (host: *Pam Padilla*)
Title: TBD

Oct 18 **Sidney W. Whiteheart**, University of Kentucky (host: *Pudur Jagadeeswaran*)
Title: *Platelet secretion: Molecules, mechanisms, surprises*

Oct 25 **Robert Turgeon**, Cornell University (host: *Brian Ayre*)
Title: *Plants don't have a heart. How do they transport food*

Nov 1 **Meng Chen**, Duke University (host: *Qunfeng Dong***)**
Title: *How plants see light: phytochrome signaling mechanisms in Arabidopsis*

Nov 8 **John Shanklin**, Brookhaven National Laboratory (host: *Kent Chapman*)
Title: *Encouraging biological systems to make products we want: why biochemistry is still relevant.*

Nov 15 **Fiona Brinkman**, Simon Fraser University (host: *Rajeev Azad*)
Title:*Transforming infectious disease control with omic analysis of host, pathogen and the environment*

Nov 22 **Bethany Bolling**, University of Texas (Medical Branch) (host: *Jim Kennedy*)
Title: *The potential role of insect-specific viruses in mediating mosquito-borne arbovirus transmission*

Nov 29 ***Thanksgiving break***

Dec 6 **Qingyi Yu**, Texas A&M Agrilife, Dallas (host: *Qunfeng Dong*)
The Evolution of sex chromosomes in papaya

Fall 2013 Seminar Coordinator: Jyoti Shah (shah@unt.edu) Phone: x3535

Note: Attendance will be taken during the seminar. It is your responsibility to fill in your attendance.