Course: **BIOL 4800.001**
Course Title: **Biology Seminar**
Semester: Fall 2017
Time: Friday's 3:00-4:20 PM
Meeting Place: LSA-117 (Life Sciences Building A) Room #117
First day of class: Friday, September 1, 2017

Instructor: Dr. Jyoti Shah
Office: Life Sciences Building –B418
Office Hours: (M) 10:00-11:00 AM
Phone: (940) 565-3535
Email: Jyoti.Shah@unt.edu

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 **3:00 -4:00 PM**. After the seminar the Q&A session can go on till 4:20PM.
- **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 2-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** that you attended for which you are submitting a summary (e.g. *You decide to submit a summary for the Seminar that you attended on Friday September 15. Your summary will be due latest by 5:00PM Tuesday September 19.* ***Late summaries will not be accepted***).
- The summary can be submitted to me immediately after the seminar (most preferred by me). Hand written summary is perfectly fine. Alternatively, it can be dropped at my office or sent to me via email (Jyoti.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 Learn)

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 2017 BIOL4800 Seminar Class Schedule

Sept 1 **Dr. Aaron Roberts** (University of North Texas)
Evaluating the Risk Posed by Environmental Contaminants to Early Lifestage Organisms: Challenges and Solutions

Sept 8 **Dr. Michael Wise** (University of North Texas)
Beasts of Bounty: Wolf Eradication in Montana and the Uncertain Distinction Between Predators and Producers

Sept 15 **Dr. Tamara Contador** (University Magallanes, Chile)
TBA

Sept 22 **Dr. Chris McClure** (The Peregrine Fund)
Saving the World's Raptors: Preventing Extinction, Eliminating Threats, and Conserving Landscapes

Sept 29 **Dr. Liam McGuire** (Texas Tech University)
Neat Things we've Learned About Bats and Hibernation While Studying White-nose Syndrome

Oct 6 **Dr. Tai-Ping Sun** (Duke University)
Regulation of Master Growth Repressor DELLA in Arabidopsis by O-Glycosylation

Oct 13 **Dr. Denise Garcia** (Drexel University)
Diverse Functional Properties of Astrocytes are Regulated by Sonic Hedgehog Signaling

Oct 20 **Dr. Claudia Maier** (Oregon State University)
TBA

Oct 27 **Dr. Hannah Carrey** (University of Wisconsin)
The Hibernator Microbiome: Host-Bacterial Interactions in an Extreme Nutritional Symbiosis

Nov 3 **Dr. Gerald Tuskan** (Oak-Ridge National Laboratory)
Inter-Kingdom Signaling -- A Populus Case Study

Nov 10 **Dr. Donovan German (**University of California-Irvine)
Inference of Cause and Effect in Molecular Pathways

Nov 17 **Dr. Catalina Pislariu** (Texas Woman's University)
New Legume Signaling Peptides Required for the Nitrogen-fixing Symbiosis and Host-strain Specificity

Dec 1 **Dr. Gaudenz Danuser** (University of Texas -Southwestern)
Inference of Cause and Effect in Molecular Pathways

Fall 2017 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.