

Course: **BIOL 4800.001**  
Course Title: **Biology Seminar**  
Semester: Fall 2018  
Time: Friday's 3:00-4:20 PM  
Meeting Place: LSA-117 (Life Sciences Building A) Room #117  
First day of class: Friday, August 31, 2018

Instructor: Dr. Jyoti Shah  
Office: Life Sciences Building –B418  
Office Hours: (M) 8:30-9:30 AM  
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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 **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 of one seminar presentation. This summary (only ONE is allowed) 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 only 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 14. Your summary will be due latest by 5:00PM Tuesday September 18. **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 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 2018 BIOL4800 Seminar Class Schedule

- August 31      **Dr. Amie Lund** (University of North Texas)  
Title: *Investigating the role of the renin-angiotensin system in air pollution-exposure mediated exacerbation of vascular disease and obesity*
- September 7    **Dr. Clemencia Rojas** (University of Arkansas)  
Title: *Plant defense responses and bacterial virulence weapons: tales of plant-microbe interactions*
- September 14   **Dr. David Swanson** (University of South Dakota)  
Title: *Birds in the cold: phenotypically flexible responses to changing energetic demands*
- September 21   **Dr. Cole Matson** (Baylor University)  
Title: *Evolutionary toxicology: mechanisms of pollution tolerance in gulf killifish (Fundulus grandis) from the Houston ship channel*
- September 28   **Dr. Cheryl Dykstra** (Independent Researcher)  
Title: *From forest to front yard: behavioral ecology of suburban red-shouldered hawks*
- October 5        **Dr. Seth Corey** (Virginia Commonwealth)  
Title: *Phenotypic and molecular characterization of a human bone marrow failure syndrome in zebrafish*
- October 12      **Dr. Brad Day** (Michigan State University)  
Title: *Nucleocytoplasmic regulation of actin dynamics and immunity*
- October 19      **Dr. Cheryl Walker** (Baylor Medical School)  
Title: *The hidden world of epigenetic "Readers, Writers and Erasers": cytoskeleton remodeling*
- October 26      **Dr. William (Bill) Orr** (Southern Methodist University)  
Title: *The interplay of peroxiredoxins in inflammation and aging*
- November 2     **Dr. Frank Van Breukelen** (Univ Nevada-Las Vegas)  
Title: *Being too plastic for variable environments: physiological plasticity in the protoendothermic ternec (Ternec ecaudatus)*
- November 9     **Dr. Donald M. Walker** (Middle Tennessee State University)  
Title: *Ecological hierarchy and the importance of scale in host-microbiome-pathogen interactions*
- November 16    **Dr. Jeffrey Townsend** (Yale)  
Title: TBA
- November 30    **Dr. David Jackson** (Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory)  
Title: *Enhancing yield traits by manipulation of meristem pathways in maize*

**Fall 2018 Seminar Coordinator: Jyoti Shah ([shah@unt.edu](mailto:shah@unt.edu)) Phone: x3535**

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