

Course ID/Course Name: BIOL5860.001/Biology Seminar (Fall 2020)

Meeting time: Friday's 3:00-4:15 PM (synchronously) via Zoom <https://unt.zoom.us/j/98067606539>

Instructor Contact

Name: Dr. Jyoti Shah

Pronouns: He/him

Office Location: LSC A210

Phone Number: (940) 565-4494

Office Hours: Mondays 9:00-10:00AM

Email: Jyoti.Shah@unt.edu (preferred method of contacting)

Communication Expectations: Communication between the instructor and the students will be via email to your official UNT email and the Instructors UNT email (Jyoti.Shah@unt.edu). Send all official concerns and questions about this course to Jyoti.Shah@unt.edu **from your UNT email (not Canvas)** with the subject BIOL4800 Biology Seminar. You should expect to hear back from the instructor within 1-2 workdays.

This course will use 'Canvas' for all submissions of missed seminar summaries and recording attendance.

Welcome to UNT!

As members of the UNT community, we have all made a commitment to be part of an institution that respects and values the identities of the students and employees with whom we interact. UNT does not tolerate identity-based discrimination, harassment, and retaliation. UNT's full Non-Discrimination Policy can be found in the UNT Policies section of the syllabus.

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 who are actively engaged in research in Biological Sciences and related areas.

Course Structure

<https://unt.instructure.com/login/ldap/> (Canvas). 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 Canvas. All announcements and communication pertaining to this course will also be made through Canvas.

This class will be held remotely from 3:00-4:15PM on Fridays (synchronously) via Zoom <https://unt.zoom.us/j/98067606539>. This link can be accessed through Canvas. If there is a change to

the zoom meeting ID it will be communicated to you via Canvas. Each week we will have a seminar by a distinguished scientist who will share with us the research underway in their laboratory/institution.

The research presented by the invited speakers is their property. Hence, seminars **will not be recorded** for asynchronous viewing. Since your grade will be based on attendance and the seminars will not be available asynchronously, it is imperative that you attend the class on its scheduled day and time.

Joining class late or leaving early may result in you being marked absent. Attendance will be posted by Monday following the class meeting. It is your responsibility to check that your attendance has been recorded correctly. If there is any discrepancy in recording of the attendance, please bring it to the instructor's attention (via email to Jyoti.Shah@unt.edu) before the next class meeting.

Course Prerequisites or Other Restrictions

None

Course Objectives

This course is a set of weekly seminars covering a broad range of biological research topics. Invited speakers are prominent local, regional or national researchers.

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

- Have increased awareness of the importance of scientific research and how research contributes to discoveries that can improve our day-to-day life and of those around us, including our environment.
- Understand the scientific approach to problem solving, be appraised of methodology used by biologists, and have a better understanding of the formation and testing of hypothesis, data collection and interpretation.

Materials

This course does not utilize textbooks. Students will hear first-hand from prominent local, regional or national/international scientists about research in Biological Sciences underway in their laboratory/institution. Speakers may use a combination of slides and movies. Note taking is highly encouraged. Students are also encouraged to ask questions during the Q&A session after the speaker's presentation.

Teaching Philosophy

This course is designed to increase awareness of the importance of scientific research, how research leads to discoveries that improve our day-to-day life and of those around us, including the environment. In addition, this course will appraise you about the scientific approach, and methodology used by biologists to test hypothesis, collect and interpret data.

Course Technology & Skills

Minimum Technology Requirements

You will need access to Zoom and Canvas for which you will require the following:

- Access to a Computer
- Reliable internet access
- Speakers
- Canvas Technical Requirements (<https://clear.unt.edu/supported-technologies/canvas/requirements>)

Computer Skills & Digital Literacy

In order to succeed in this remotely (synchronously) offered course, you should know how to:

- Use Canvas
- Use email with attachments
- Downloading and installing software
- Connect remotely to Zoom and use the Chat feature in Zoom

Technical Assistance

Part of working in the online environment involves dealing with the inconveniences and frustration that can arise when technology breaks down or does not perform as expected. Here at UNT we have a Student Help Desk that you can contact for help with Canvas or other technology issues.

UIT Help Desk: [UIT Student Help Desk site](http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.htm) (<http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.htm>)

Email: helpdesk@unt.edu

Phone: 940-565-2324

In Person: Sage Hall, Room 130

Walk-In Availability: 8am-9pm

Telephone Availability:

- Sunday: noon-midnight
- Monday-Thursday: 8am-midnight
- Friday: 8am-8pm
- Saturday: 9am-5pm

Laptop Checkout: 8am-7pm

For additional support, visit [Canvas Technical Help](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10554-4212710328) (<https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10554-4212710328>)

Rules of Engagement

- While the freedom to express yourself is a fundamental human right, any communication that utilizes cruel and derogatory language on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law will not be tolerated.

- Treat the invited speaker, instructor, classmates and attendees with respect in any communication online or face-to-face, even when their opinion differs from your own.
- Ask for and use the correct name and pronouns for your instructor and classmates.
- Speak from personal experiences. Use “I” statements to share thoughts and feelings. Try not to speak on behalf of groups or other individual’s experiences.
- Use your critical thinking skills to challenge other people’s ideas, instead of attacking individuals.
- Avoid using all caps while communicating digitally. This may be interpreted as “YELLING!”
- Please do not interrupt the speaker. Hold your questions until the Q&A session.

See these [Engagement Guidelines](https://clear.unt.edu/online-communication-tips) (https://clear.unt.edu/online-communication-tips) for more information.

Course Requirements

Students enrolled in this course are expected to:

- Record their attendance for the seminar with the coordinator by entering your first and last name as it appears in your gradebook in the Chat box. Class meets synchronously at the indicated time.
- 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 -4:15 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 a maximum of one missed seminar.

Students are strongly encouraged to ask questions during the Q&A session that follows the speaker’s presentation. Questions can be submitted **via the Chat box** in Zoom. In addition, students are encouraged to look over the speaker’s research 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 the penalty of earning a No-Pass grade.

- If you miss two classes (inclusive of the first day of class), you could still earn a **Pass**, 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.

- The summary paper should be a two page summary of any one seminar presentation **that you attended** during the semester. 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 ‘No-Pass’ 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 4, 2020. Your summary will be due latest by 5:00PM Tuesday September 8. **Late summaries will not be accepted**.*
- A hand written summary is perfectly fine and can be scanned or photographed and submitted through Canvas. You can also type it out and upload it to Canvas.
- You are allowed a maximum of one written summary submission for the semester.

Grading

This course (BIOL5860) does not have a letter grade. You will earn either a **Pass or a **No-Pass**.**

Examples of grade scenarios:

- Attend all seminars or miss only one seminar → Final Grade earned = Pass
- If you miss 2 seminars AND turn in the summary paper on time → Final Grade earned = Pass.
- If you miss 2 seminars AND fail to turn in the summary paper on time → Final Grade earned = No-Pass
- If you miss 3 or more seminars → Final Grade earned = No-Pass

Course Evaluation

Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT) is the student evaluation system for UNT and allows students the ability to confidentially provide constructive feedback to their instructor and department to improve the quality of student experiences in the course.

Course Policies

Attendance Policy

Since this is a seminar class, there are no exams and your grade is based solely on attendance. You will be permitted one missed class after which any additional absences will affect your grade. See grading policy described above to determine how your absences can affect your grade.

COVID-19 Impact on Attendance

While attendance is expected as outlined above, it is important for all of us to be mindful of the health and safety of everyone in our community, especially given concerns about COVID-19. Please contact me if you are unable to attend class because you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, It is important that you communicate with me prior to being absent and simultaneously report to the UNT COVID hotline as indicated below.

If you are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19 (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>) please seek medical attention from the Student Health and Wellness Center (940-565-2333 or askSHWC@unt.edu) or your health care provider PRIOR to coming to

campus. UNT also requires you to contact the UNT COVID Hotline at 844-366-5892 or COVID@unt.edu for guidance on actions to take due to symptoms, pending or positive test results, or potential exposure. While attendance is an important part of succeeding in this class, your own health, and those of others in the community, is more important.

Class Materials for Remote Instruction

Students will need access to a [webcam and microphone] to participate in fully remote portions of the class. Information on how to be successful in a remote learning environment can be found at <https://online.unt.edu/learn>.

Statement on Face Covering

Face coverings are required in all UNT facilities. If you are accessing the seminars from on campus with others around you, you are expected to wear face coverings during this class. If you are unable to wear a face covering due to a disability, please contact the Office of Disability Access to request an accommodation. UNT face covering requirements are subject to change due to community health guidelines. Any changes will be communicated via the instructor.

Class Participation

Attendance is mandatory. You are encouraged to ask questions. However, please refrain from interrupting the speaker and do hold your questions for the Q&A session after the speaker has completed their presentation.

Late Work

UNT instructors have the prerogative to accept or not to accept late work. Please submit your summaries as required by the Tuesday deadlines as listed above.

Examination Policy

There are no tests or exams in this class. Your grade will be based solely on attendance.

Assignment Policy

If you would like to make-up for a missed class (maximum one missed class) then please submit a seminar summary via Canvas.

The University is committed to providing a reliable online course system to all users. However, in the event of any unexpected server outage or any unusual technical difficulty, which prevents students from completing a time sensitive assessment activity, the instructor will extend the time windows and provide an appropriate accommodation based on the situation. Students should immediately report any problems to the instructor and contact the UNT Student Help Desk: helpdesk@unt.edu or 940.565.2324 and obtain a ticket number. The instructor and the UNT Student Help Desk will work with the student to resolve any issues at the earliest possible time.

Instructor Responsibilities and Feedback

As an instructor, I coordinate this course, which involves talks by invited scientists. I will be available during office hours (Mondays 9:00-10:00AM) to answer questions about the class, your attendance and grade via the zoom link for this class. The best way to reach out to me is via email to Jyoti.Shah@unt.edu. I usually respond within 1-2 workdays.

Syllabus Change Policy

Any changes in the seminar schedule or cancellations will be announced via Canvas and email.

UNT Policies

Academic Integrity Policy

Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences. According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University. [Insert specific sanction or academic penalty for specific academic integrity violation.]

ADA Policy

UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one's specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the [ODA website \(https://disability.unt.edu/\)](https://disability.unt.edu/).

Prohibition of Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation (Policy 16.004)

The University of North Texas (UNT) prohibits discrimination and harassment because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law in its application and admission processes; educational programs and activities; employment policies, procedures, and processes; and university facilities. The University takes active measures to prevent such conduct and investigates and takes remedial action when appropriate.

Emergency Notification & Procedures

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like

chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to Canvas for contingency plans for covering course materials.

Retention of Student Records

Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Canvas online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. Students have the right to view their individual record; however, information about student's records will not be divulged to other individuals without proper written consent. Students are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the University's policy. See UNT Policy 10.10, Records Management and Retention for additional information.

Acceptable Student Behavior

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The University's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including University and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. Visit UNT's [Code of Student Conduct](https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct) (<https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct>) to learn more.

Access to Information - Eagle Connect

Students' access point for business and academic services at UNT is located at: my.unt.edu. All official communication from the University will be delivered to a student's Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect and how to forward e-mail [Eagle Connect](https://it.unt.edu/eagleconnect) (<https://it.unt.edu/eagleconnect>).

Student Evaluation Administration Dates

Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. The survey will be made available during weeks 13, 14 and 15 of the long semesters to provide students with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. Students will receive an email from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via IASystem Notification" (no-reply@iasystem.org) with the survey link. Students should look for the email in their UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete the survey. Once students complete the survey they will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the [SPOT website](http://spot.unt.edu/) (<http://spot.unt.edu/>) or email spot@unt.edu.

Sexual Assault Prevention

UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Federal laws (Title IX and the Violence Against Women Act) and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, and therefore prohibit sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual harassment, relationship violence, stalking, and/or sexual assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance. UNT's Survivor Advocates can assist a student who has been

impacted by violence by filing protective orders, completing crime victim's compensation applications, contacting professors for absences related to an assault, working with housing to facilitate a room change where appropriate, and connecting students to other resources available both on and off campus. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-565- 2648. Additionally, alleged sexual misconduct can be non-confidentially reported to the Title IX Coordinator at oeo@unt.edu or at (940) 565 2759.

Important Notice for F-1 Students taking Distance Education Courses

Federal Regulation

To read detailed Immigration and Customs Enforcement regulations for F-1 students taking online courses, please go to the [Electronic Code of Federal Regulations website](http://www.ecfr.gov/) (<http://www.ecfr.gov/>). The specific portion concerning distance education courses is located at Title 8 CFR 214.2 Paragraph (f)(6)(i)(G).

The paragraph reads:

(G) For F-1 students enrolled in classes for credit or classroom hours, no more than the equivalent of one class or three credits per session, term, semester, trimester, or quarter may be counted toward the full course of study requirement if the class is taken on-line or through distance education and does not require the student's physical attendance for classes, examination or other purposes integral to completion of the class. An on-line or distance education course is a course that is offered principally through the use of television, audio, or computer transmission including open broadcast, closed circuit, cable, microwave, or satellite, audio conferencing, or computer conferencing. If the F-1 student's course of study is in a language study program, no on-line or distance education classes may be considered to count toward a student's full course of study requirement.

University of North Texas Compliance

To comply with immigration regulations, an F-1 visa holder within the United States may need to engage in an on-campus experiential component for this course. This component (which must be approved in advance by the instructor) can include activities such as taking an on-campus exam, participating in an on-campus lecture or lab activity, or other on-campus experience integral to the completion of this course.

If such an on-campus activity is required, it is the student's responsibility to do the following:

- (1) Submit a written request to the instructor for an on-campus experiential component within one week of the start of the course.
- (2) Ensure that the activity on campus takes place and the instructor documents it in writing with a notice sent to the International Student and Scholar Services Office. ISSS has a form available that you may use for this purpose.

Because the decision may have serious immigration consequences, if an F-1 student is unsure about his or her need to participate in an on-campus experiential component for this course, s/he should contact the UNT International Student and Scholar Services Office (telephone 940-565-2195 or email internationaladvising@unt.edu) to get clarification before the one-week deadline.

Student Verification

UNT takes measures to protect the integrity of educational credentials awarded to students enrolled in distance education courses by verifying student identity, protecting student privacy, and notifying students of any special meeting times/locations or additional charges associated with student identity verification in distance education courses.

See [UNT Policy 07-002 Student Identity Verification, Privacy, and Notification and Distance Education Courses](https://policy.unt.edu/policy/07-002) (<https://policy.unt.edu/policy/07-002>).

Use of Student Work

A student owns the copyright for all work (e.g. software, photographs, reports, presentations, and email postings) he or she creates within a class and the University is not entitled to use any student work without the student's permission unless all of the following criteria are met:

- The work is used only once.
- The work is not used in its entirety.
- Use of the work does not affect any potential profits from the work.
- The student is not identified.
- The work is identified as student work.

If the use of the work does not meet all of the above criteria, then the University office or department using the work must obtain the student's written permission.

Download the UNT System Permission, Waiver and Release Form

Transmission and Recording of Student Images in Electronically-Delivered Courses

1. No permission is needed from a student for his or her image or voice to be transmitted live via videoconference or streaming media, but all students should be informed when courses are to be conducted using either method of delivery.
2. In the event an instructor records student presentations, he or she must obtain permission from the student using a signed release in order to use the recording for future classes in accordance with the Use of Student-Created Work guidelines above.
3. Instructors who video-record their class lectures with the intention of re-using some or all of recordings for future class offerings must notify students on the course syllabus if students' images may appear on video. Instructors are also advised to provide accommodation for students who do not wish to appear in class recordings.

Example: This course employs lecture capture technology to record class sessions. Students may occasionally appear on video. The lecture recordings will be available to you for study purposes and may also be reused in future course offerings.

No notification is needed if only audio and slide capture is used or if the video only records the instructor's image. However, the instructor is encouraged to let students know the recordings will be available to them for study purposes.

Academic Support & Student Services

Student Support Services

Mental Health

UNT provides mental health resources to students to help ensure there are numerous outlets to turn to that wholeheartedly care for and are there for students in need, regardless of the nature of an issue or its severity. Listed below are several resources on campus that can support your academic success and mental well-being:

- [Student Health and Wellness Center](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center) (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center)
- [Counseling and Testing Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services) (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services)
- [UNT Care Team](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care) (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care)
- [UNT Psychiatric Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center/services/psychiatry) (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center/services/psychiatry)
- [Individual Counseling](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services/services/individual-counseling) (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services/services/individual-counseling)

Chosen Names

A chosen name is a name that a person goes by that may or may not match their legal name. If you have a chosen name that is different from your legal name and would like that to be used in class, please let the instructor know. Below is a list of resources for updating your chosen name at UNT.

- [UNT Records](#)
- [UNT ID Card](#)
- [UNT Email Address](#)
- [Legal Name](#)

**UNT eulDs cannot be changed at this time. The collaborating offices are working on a process to make this option accessible to UNT community members.*

Pronouns

Pronouns (she/her, they/them, he/him, etc.) are a public way for people to address you, much like your name, and can be shared with a name when making an introduction, both virtually and in-person. Just as we ask and don't assume someone's name, we should also ask and not assume someone's pronouns.

You can [add your pronouns to your Canvas account](#) so that they follow your name when posting to discussion boards, submitting assignments, etc.

Below is a list of additional resources regarding pronouns and their usage:

- [What are pronouns and why are they important?](#)
- [How do I use pronouns?](#)
- [How do I share my pronouns?](#)
- [How do I ask for another person's pronouns?](#)
- [How do I correct myself or others when the wrong pronoun is used?](#)

Additional Student Support Services

- [Registrar](https://registrar.unt.edu/registration) (<https://registrar.unt.edu/registration>)
- [Financial Aid](https://financialaid.unt.edu/) (<https://financialaid.unt.edu/>)
- [Student Legal Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services>)
- [Career Center](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/career-center) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/career-center>)
- [Multicultural Center](https://edo.unt.edu/multicultural-center) (<https://edo.unt.edu/multicultural-center>)
- [Counseling and Testing Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services>)
- [Pride Alliance](https://edo.unt.edu/pridealliance) (<https://edo.unt.edu/pridealliance>)
- [UNT Food Pantry](https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources/food-pantry) (<https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources/food-pantry>)

Academic Support Services

- [Academic Resource Center](https://clear.unt.edu/canvas/student-resources) (<https://clear.unt.edu/canvas/student-resources>)
- [Academic Success Center](https://success.unt.edu/asc) (<https://success.unt.edu/asc>)
- [UNT Libraries](https://library.unt.edu/) (<https://library.unt.edu/>)
- [Writing Lab](http://writingcenter.unt.edu/) (<http://writingcenter.unt.edu/>)