Advanced Readings in Molecular Biology

BISC 544 (Spring 2013)

2 units
Course Chair: Matt Dean
Instructors: Molecular and Computational Faculty

Meeting Time: Tuesday 10 am - 11 am, RRI 121

Overview and Course Goals: The goal of the course is to give advanced training to graduate students in reading primary journal articles. The course will emphasize critical analyses of primary scientific data and interpretations presented in the literature.

Course enrollment: Enrollment is restricted to Molecular Biology graduate students. All students need instructor’s permission to take this class.

Website: Course materials and announcement will be made using the USC Blackboard website.

Course Grading: You will be evaluated based on your class participation and performance on the final exam. You are expected to read the assigned paper before each class and understand the material presented. During each meeting you are expected to contribute to the discussion or you will not get credit for attendance. When reading the paper, make sure you understand the questions being asked, the data being collected, and the analyses being employed.

Statement for Students with Disabilities
Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me (or to TA) as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in STU 301 and is open 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The phone number for DSP is (213) 740-0776.

Statement on Academic Integrity
USC seeks to maintain an optimal learning environment. General principles of academic honesty include the concept of respect for the intellectual property of others, the expectation that individual work will be submitted unless otherwise allowed by an instructor, and the obligations both to protect one’s own academic work from misuse by others as well as to avoid using another’s work as one’s own. All students are expected to understand and abide by these principles. Scampus, the Student Guidebook, contains the Student Conduct Code in Section 11.00, while the recommended sanctions are located in Appendix A: http://www.usc.edu/dept/publications/SCAMPUS/gov/. Students will be referred to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards for further
review, should there be any suspicion of academic dishonesty. The Review process can be found at: http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/SJACS/.

Class schedule:

15-Jan-12 Matt Dean  
Class introduction

22-Jan-12 Matt Dean  

29-Jan-12 Ken Nealson  
Wolfe-Simon et al. A bacterium that can grow by using arsenic instead of phosphorous. 2010. Science DOI: 10.1126/science.1197258

5-Feb-12 Steve Finkel  

12-Feb-12 Xiaojiang Chen  

19-Feb-12 Don Arnold  

26-Feb-12 John Tower ***CLASS WILL BE AT 9 AM THIS DAY***  

5-Mar-12 Irene Chiolo  

12-Mar-12 Oscar Aparicio  

19-Mar-12 Spring Break

26-Mar-12 Joe Hacia  
2-Apr-12  Susan Forsburg

9-Apr-12  Ian Ehrenreich ***CLASS WILL BE AT 9 AM THIS DAY***

16-Apr-12  Xuelin Wu

23-Apr-12  Fabien Pinaud

30-Apr-12  Lin Chen