

BIO 440: Mentored Research FALL 2016

Instructor

Instructor: Dr. Jennifer Larimore
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Office: BSC 201W, Lab 204 W
404-471-627

Required Class Time:
4 hours of lab work per week

Required Text and Materials:

PDFs of assigned articles will be uploaded for you to Google Drive. Because this is mentored research, our required reading will be primary literature and review articles.

Course Description:

This class will use molecular biology techniques to explore morphology changes to dendrites and spines in a model of Schizophrenia.

Credit and workload:

BIO 440 is a 4-credit course. In addition to 4 hours in-class time, you will be spending a minimum of 8-10 hours per week in preparation for our class sessions, including completing reading assignments and answering discussion questions in writing before coming to class.

Course Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will achieve the following objectives:

1. Understand neurodevelopment.
2. Present scientific research in a professional manner.
3. Utilize multiple molecular biology techniques in an active lab setting gaining research experience for future endeavors in research.

Grading Policy:

The final grade for this course will be based on the following:

Lab professionalism 150 points (10 points a week / 15 weeks)

oral presentation 100 points

Total 250

*additional points or assignments may be added by Dr. Larimore

Grading Scale

A =	92-100%
A- =	90-91.9%
B+ =	88-89.9%
B =	82-87.9%
B- =	80-82.9%
C+ =	78-79.9%
C =	72-77.9%
C- =	70-72.9%
D+ =	68-69.9%
D =	62-67.9%
D- =	60-62.9%
F =	below 60.0

Course Work:**Lab Work:**

Experiments will be assigned to you. Finish your experiments in a prompt and honest fashion, adhering to the protocols exactly and making notes when you did not. Keep meticulous lab notes.

Class Discussion:

Articles will be assigned during the semester. To get through a scientific article, you will probably spend approximately 2-3 hours outside of class reading and writing it up.

Society for Neuroscience Oral presentation in lieu of a final:

In lieu of a final, you will be giving an oral presentation at the Society for Neuroscience annual meeting, which has over 45,000 members in attendance each year. This is the most common way scientist communicate their main findings at meetings.

Academic Policies:

Attendance and Deadlines for Class: See the Biology Department Attendance Policy on Moodle. It is your responsibility to keep up with the class material. Thus, if you miss class, it is up to you to find out from a reliable source if you missed an assignment and it is your responsibility to obtain the class information from a peer. It is also your responsibility to stay on top of presentation, quiz and exam deadlines.

Course Evaluations:

Course evaluations are completed by students online rather than in class. It is an expectation of this course that you will complete the course evaluation. These evaluations are very important to me and I look forward to student comments every semester to see the ways in which I can improve the course. PLEASE help me by completing the evaluation thoughtfully!

Accommodations:

If you have a disability that may have some impact on your work in this class and for which you may require accommodations, please see Kelly Deasy (x6174) in the Office of Academic Advising to register for services. Students that receive accommodation checklists, please meet with me to discuss the provisions of those accommodations as soon as possible.

Title IX:

For the safety of the entire community, any incidence of or information about sexual misconduct must be reported immediately to Title IX Coordinator Karen Gilbert (kgilbert@agnesscott.edu, 404-471-6435) or Deputy Title IX Coordinator Kristian Contreras (kcontreras@agnesscott.edu, 404-471-6394).

Inclusion:

Agnes Scott is a diverse and inclusive community. This course adheres to the principles of diversity and inclusion integral to the Agnes Scott community. We respect people from all backgrounds and affirm people's decisions about gender expression and identity. Please feel free to correct me if your preferred name or gender pronoun are different from that listed on the class roster.

In conclusion:

YOU EARN YOUR GRADE, AND YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR IT AT ALL TIMES.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

The Agnes Scott College honor code embodies an ideal of character, conduct, and citizenship, and is an important part of the College's mission and core identity. This applies especially to academic honesty and integrity. Passing off someone else's work as your own represents intellectual fraud and theft, and violates the core values of our academic community. To be honorable, you should understand not only what counts as academic dishonesty, but also how to avoid engaging in these practices. You should:

- review each course syllabus for the professor's expectations regarding course work and class attendance.
- attribute all ideas taken from other sources; this shows respect for other scholars. Plagiarism can include portraying another's work or ideas as your own, buying a paper online and turning it in as if it were your own work, or not citing or improperly citing references on a reference page or within the text of a paper.
- not falsify or create data and resources or alter a graded work without the prior consent of your professor. This includes making up a reference for a works cited page or making up statistics or facts for academic work.
- not allow another party to do your work/exam, or submit the same or similar work in more than one course without permission from the course instructors. Cheating also includes taking an exam for another person, looking on another person's exam for answers, using exams from previous classes without permission, or bringing and using unauthorized notes or resources (i.e., electronic, written, or otherwise) during an exam.
- not facilitate cheating, which can happen when you help another student complete a take home exam, give answers to an exam, talk about an exam with a student who has not taken it, or collaborate with others on work that is supposed to be completed independently.
- be truthful about the submission of work, which includes the time of submission and the place of submission (e.g., e-mail, online, in a mailbox, to an office, etc.).

You should understand that penalties result from dishonest conduct, ranging from failure of the assignment to expulsion from the college. You should speak with your professors if you need clarification about any of these policies.