

**BIOL 5101—Current Topics in Biology
Fall 2017**

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Office Hours: By Appointment

Section Information: Biol 5101–001

Time and Place of Class Meetings: LS 122, 4:00–4:50 pm. Please note that research seminars almost always last longer than 50 minutes, and will likely will not be finished until 5:00 pm or a few minutes later. Be respectful of the seminar speaker, who was invited by UT Arlington to represent their research. They may have travelled far in order to speak to us. DO NOT leave early—this is disruptive to the other faculty and graduate students who attend the seminar.

Description of Course Content: This is a research seminar series where experts come to our university and present their current research. You will attend the one-hour seminar every week.

Student Learning Outcomes: Students will be introduced to a diverse array of topics in biology that represent current research. They will observe how science is done by experts. Through the course writing assignments, they will improve their critical thinking skills and explain how their knowledge attained from previous courses can be applied to real world scenarios.

Required Textbooks and Other Course Materials: None

Descriptions of Major Assignments and Examinations: You will write a two-page report on five seminars (double spaced, 12 pt font). This paragraph will be a summary of the talk, which will include (1) the motivation/questions of the research, (2) the results, (3) the discussion/conclusions/ intellectual merit of the research, and (4) the strengths or weaknesses you may have perceived in this talk. You MUST submit your assignments via Blackboard ONE WEEK after the seminar (seminar schedule below). Blackboard records the time that you submitted your assignment; late submissions will not receive credit.

Attendance: Mandatory whenever there is a seminar. You are allowed to miss one seminar. Altogether attendance amounts to 50 points. Each seminar missed after the first one missed will drop the total by 10 points per absence.

Grading: Each write up will be worth 10 points for a total of 50. Attendance is worth 50 points,

Grading scale

A = 90–100 points

B = 80–89 points

C = 70–79 points

D = 60–69 points

E = < 60 points

Expectations for Out-of-Class Study: Beyond the time required to attend each class meeting, students enrolled in this course should expect to spend at least an additional 2 hours per week in course-related activities.

Grade Grievances: If you are experiencing an issue in lab or class, you should first arrange a meeting with your instructor. After you have met with your instructor and if the issue remains unresolved, you may then consult the Laboratory Coordinators. If the issue still requires attention, you may then consult the Associate Chair of Biology, Dr. Laura Mydlarz. To do this you can file a grievance at: <https://www.uta.edu.php-lib.machform/view.php?id=3403>. You must file the form in order to have your issue heard. None of the listed personnel will discuss the issue with you until you have first consulted all of those preceding him/her. The Biology Grievance Form can also be found by navigating to: <http://www.uta.edu/biology/ugstudy.php> and clicking on "Biology Grievance Form" in the right hand column.

Drop Policy: Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance. Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://wweb.uta.edu/ses/fao>).

Americans with Disabilities Act: The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic

accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

Academic Integrity: At UT Arlington, academic dishonesty is completely unacceptable and will not be tolerated in any form, including (but not limited to) “cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts” (UT System Regents’ Rule 50101, §2.2). Suspected violations of academic integrity standards will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student’s suspension or expulsion from the University.

Student Support Services: UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may contact the Maverick Resource Hotline by calling 817-272-6107, sending a message to resources@uta.edu, or visiting www.uta.edu/resources.

Electronic Communication: UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

Student Feedback Survey: At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as lecture, seminar, or laboratory will be asked to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS) about the course and how it was taught. Instructions on how to access the SFS system will be sent directly to students through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. UT Arlington’s effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback data is required by state law; student participation in the SFS program is voluntary.

Final Review Week: A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as

scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

Emergency Exit Procedures: Should we experience an emergency that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit, which is located west and east of the LS 118 entrances (left as you exit the room). When exiting the building during an emergency, you should never take an elevator but rather use the stairs. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist handicapped individuals.