

SC/BIOL 3100 2.0 – Current Topics in Biological Research
Faculty of Science, Department of Biology
York University, Fall Term 2014-15

Time: Mondays 2:30 – 4:30 pm

Location: Life Sciences Building, Room 106

Lecturer: Dr. Samuel Benchimol
Department of Biology
Farquharson Building, Room 243A / Room 246
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Communication:

You may contact me by e-mail at: benchimo@yorku.ca

Please include “BIOL 3100” in the subject line and your full name and student number in your e-mail text. If you wish to have an appointment with me, please contact me by e-mail first. Course information and resources will be posted on the York University Moodle course website.

Course Description:

The course has 2 learning objectives. First, the course provides insight into the research programs of several faculty members in the Department of Biology. Second, the course provides students with the opportunity to develop skills to read and evaluate scientific research papers, and to enhance their written and oral communication skills in Biology. This course is a prerequisite for students wishing to enroll in the Honours Thesis course in their 4th year of study (SC/BIOL 4000 8.00 or SC/BIOL 4000 3.00). Two lecture hours per week in the fall term. Two credits.

Course Text (recommended resource):

McMillan VE. 2012. Writing Papers in the Biological Sciences, 5th edition. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's.

Important Dates:

- Last date to ENROL without permission of the course instructor is Sep 22, 2014
- Last date to ENROL with permission of the course instructor is Oct 6, 2014
- Last date to DROP the course without receiving a grade is Nov 7, 2014

Evaluation:

The final grade for the course will be based on the following assignments weighted as indicated:

1. Short 2-paragraph summaries on 6 out of 11 faculty presentations: 20%
 - due on the Friday following the presentation
2. Critical summary article on a specific research paper: 25%
 - due on Friday, October 17, 2014 (4 pm)
3. Review article based on a faculty member's published research: 25%
 - due on Friday, December 5, 2014 (4 pm)
4. Student presentation / Student evaluation: 30%
 - November 17, 24 and December 1

Late submissions will be given a 0 mark. There is no final exam.

Academic Writing Support at Bethune College:

Bethune College offers help with academic writing (Bethune Writing Centre) and provides peer tutoring. If you are having difficulty expressing your thoughts and wish to improve your writing skills, please visit the Bethune College website (<http://bethune.yorku.ca/>) for further information.

Accommodations:

Students who feel that there are extenuating circumstances that may interfere with their ability to successfully complete the course requirements are encouraged to discuss the matter with the Course Director **as soon as possible**.

Students with disabilities who require reasonable academic accommodation in teaching style or evaluation methods should consult with the Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD) and ensure that requests for appropriate accommodations are arranged with the Course Director early in the term. Please refer to York University's policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities at the following link: <http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/policies>

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is a major academic offence and carries serious penalties, ranging from a failing grade on the work in question to expulsion from the university. For more details about cheating and plagiarism, please refer to York University's policy on Academic Honesty at the following link: <http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/policies/document.php?document=69>

Additional resources on Academic Integrity for Students are available at: <http://www.yorku.ca/academicintegrity/students/index.htm>