

BSCI 320 : Graduate Seminar in Biological Sciences
Fall 2009
Wednesday 4:10 – 5:00 PM
2212 Stevenson Center / U5202 MRBIII (starting Sept 16)

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Website OAK - <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/oak/>

Purpose The purpose of this course is to give the student experience with reading, presenting, and critically evaluating research papers.

Format Each student will give at least one 35-45-min presentation on a research paper of his/her choice. The talks will be “journal club” style, in which everyone will be expected to participate in class discussions and ask questions about the research being presented. Students will read the paper and submit two questions prior to each class. Students will critique the quality of each presentation by submitting an evaluation form at the end of each class. Professor Eichman will summarize the student evaluations and provide constructive feedback on each presentation in a one-on-one meeting with the presenting student.

Deadlines A PDF copy of your selected paper due by email one week prior to your presentation (by 4 pm the previous Wed). Two questions on each paper due one day prior to each class (by 4 pm Tues). Evaluation forms due at the end of each class.

Papers *The best papers to present are those that are general in scope and that have a large impact in the scientific community by answering fundamental questions in biology.* Papers should describe original work (review articles will not be accepted), and should be of interest to a broad audience. Typically, papers should be selected from Nature, Science, Cell, PNAS, Current Biology, or PLoS, or companion journals thereof, although others will be considered. Feel free to speak with me, your rotation supervisor, or colleagues when choosing a topic/article or planning your presentation.

Grading	Presentation	40%
	Submitted questions	20%
	Participation	20%
	Submitted evaluations	20%