PSL 7890 (Physiology Seminar) Course Information

Winter 2017

Learning Objective: PSL 7890 is the weekly Department of Physiology seminar series, which was designed for graduate students to explore new advance of biomedical research, to improve scientific critical thinking, to learn presentation skills, and to communicate with expertise in a specific research area.

This is one (1.0) credit course in which students who registered are required to attend the seminar series. The seminar series are scheduled for Thursday from 12:00 (noon) to 1:00pm. If an outside seminar speaker is invited, the students are also required to meet the speaker for approximately one half hour after seminar lunch.

There are two requirements for the course which determine your final grade. The first is attendance at seminar, and the second is a written report of each seminar. The attendance will contribute 60% to your final grade and the written report will count 40%.

You are required to sign in for every seminar, which will be officially counted your attendance. A sign sheet will be posted in the department conference room (5364 Scott Hall or notify otherwise) before each seminar starts. If you are unable to attend a particular seminar, you must notify me or Ms. Christine Cupps (Assistant to the Graduate Officer in our department) prior to that session and state why you will be unable to attend. The course attendance is very strict although personal and/or family medical emergency is a valid excuse. If this is a case, you are required to meet with me before immediate next seminar session to get a new assignment.

A written report in a word file must be submitted to Christine Cupps via email (ccupps@med.wayne.edu) before Friday at 5pm on the week of the seminar. The written report or summary should focus on the rationale, hypothesis, results and conclusion or interpretation of the speaker’s presentation. A novel or an important research method the speaker presents is also required to include in your report. The report should be less than 300 words, a typical length of an abstract for a research paper. If you are not familiar with how this should look, I encourage you to read some scientific journals (Cell, Nature, Science, Journal of Biological Chemistry, or American Journal of Physiology). The format of the report is not as important as the content. Please remember do NOT try to write down every details rather understand a big picture of the presentation. Your report will be judged based on its overall merit of your report. In addition, the accuracy and the efficiency of your writing will also contribute to the overall score.

To help you write the report, I suggest you to read the recent publications from the speaker’s laboratory BEFORE the seminar, to write down some key points of the presentation (novel hypotheses, new discoveries, new technologies and new models) and to pay attention to questions raised by faculty DURING the seminar. Your challenge questions about speaker’s presentation are always welcome and you will get extra points from a good challenge question.

The overall grade will combine both points you earn from attendance and report. 75%-79% will be the passing grade B; 80%-84% will be B+; 85%-89% will be A- and 90% or above will be A.

The seminar series are scheduled for almost every Thursdays from January 14th until April 21rd, with exception of March 17th which is Spring Break week. The seminar will be held in 5364 Scott Hall but you will be notified if there are any location or schedule changes. The seminar schedule will be posted on Blackboard and on the Department of Physiology's webpage http://physiology.med.wayne.edu/seminars.php.

If you have any questions regarding the seminars please feel free to contact me via email jrillema@med.wayne.edu or stop by my office (4251 Scott Hall).

Course Coordinator: James Rillema, Ph.D.