

GENETICS 708 : METHODS AND LOGIC IN GENETIC ANALYSIS SYLLABUS-SPRING COLLOQUIUM 2008

Goal of the course for students:

To prepare for and conduct face-to-face discussions with Genetics Department seminar speakers at the forefront of diverse genetic disciplines.
To practice oral defense of written proposals.

Course Professors

Dr. Xin Sun	265-5405	xsun@wisc.edu
Dr. Ahna Skop	265-1593	skop@wisc.edu

Course Administrator

Dr. Mara McDonald	263-8941	mamcdona@wisc.edu
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Meeting Times and Places:

9:55 pm	Fridays	1408 Genetics/Biotech
3:30 pm	Wednesdays	1111 Genetics/Biotech
4:45 pm	Wednesdays	1360 Genetics/Biotech

Website URL: [to be announced](#)

- Course syllabus
- Course schedule of speakers with references
- PDF files of references
- Students contact list

Structure and timeline for course:

General

All students should read every paper assigned by the speaker each week, formulate questions and participate in discussions.
Each student is responsible for presenting and moderating discussions for one speaker.

Student responsibilities/deadlines (three-week time window):

Week 1

Friday 9:55 AM Prior to class, all students should read pdfs provided by the next incoming speaker. In class, the student representing the speaker introduces the research field (25 minutes). No set format for presentation (ppt, overhead or chalk talk).

Suggested outline of presentation (each student ~8 min presentation):

- Background;
- Big question;
- Speaker's focus in the field;
- Speaker's general approaches;

Research paper assigned (keep this brief, only the key findings should be presented).

Week 2

Monday 10:00 AM All students in the class submit at least one question each for the speaker to Mara at <mamcdona@wisc.edu>. Mara will send out the compiled questions to speaker, instructors, students.

Wednesday 3:30 PM Colloquium.

Wednesday 4:45 PM Class discussion with speaker (45 min to 1 hour). Assigned student responsible for moderating the Q&A session.

Week 3*

Tuesday 5:00 PM The student representing the speaker will submit a 3-page proposal on one Specific Aim addressing the next critical question in the speaker's research field.

Suggested format:

Specific Aim;

Rationale and Significance: Hypothesis, why this is the next pertinent question, and why your research will move the field forward;

Experimental Design;

Possible outcomes and interpretation;

Possible difficulties and solution;

Bibliography (not included in the 3-page limit).

Wednesday 12:00PM Mara will send the proposals to instructors and fellow students.

Friday 9:55 AM The student defends his/her Aim (~15 min each presentation, allow 10 min for questions). Instructors and fellow students give evaluations on the writing and presentation.

**For Week 3 presentation by the final group, the class will decide on a different schedule.*

No final paper.

Grading:

25% Presentation introducing the topic.

50% Proposal and defense of the proposal

25% Class Participation, including:

Asking questions at student presentations;

Submitting written questions;

Asking question at discussions with speakers.

Evaluations are given at the conclusion of each presentation. Grades are determined at the end of semester.