

Biology 410 – Seminar in Biological Sciences  
University of Tennessee at Martin  
Fall 2007

9:00 - 9:50 a.m., Monday  
243 Brehm

Instructor: Dr. Ann Gathers

Phone: 881-7178

Office: 224 Brehm Hall

Email: [agathers@utm.edu](mailto:agathers@utm.edu)

Office Hours: T 10:00-11:00 & 1:00-3:00; W 2:00-4:00; TH 10:00-11:00

Catalog Course Description: Active student participation including oral research presentation of instructor- selected topics. Students are required to use standard office suite software including Microsoft Word and Microsoft PowerPoint.

Course Objectives:

- 1.) Provide an overview of biology-related careers and biology career search engines
- 2.) Training in resume and cover letter writing skills
- 3.) Introduce critical reading of primary literature in the field
- 4.) Develop and hone oral presentation skills
- 5.) Explore recent research findings and clinical applications of selected topics
- 6.) Encourage students to become independent, active learners, and critical thinkers

Attendance: Students are expected to attend class. Class role will be taken and 10 points will be given for attendance to each student for each class period. One excused absence during the semester is permitted.

Assignments: Assignments in this course are designed to prepare students for careers in biology-related fields. To fulfill the requirements of this course, students must:

1. Perform a search for a potential career in a biology-related field
2. Prepare a draft of a cover letter and resume for the position
3. Submit a final cover letter and resume
4. Read and discuss a selected primary literature article in the field
5. Write an abstract for a scientific journal article
6. Research a selected topic in the field
7. Prepare a 20 minute PowerPoint presentation on the selected/assigned research topic.

Academic Accommodation: Any student eligible for and requesting academic accommodations due to a disability is requested to provide a letter from the Student Success Center within the first two weeks of the semester.

Cheating and Classroom Behavior: All students are expected to demonstrate integrity, respect, and consideration as outlined by the 2006-2007 Undergraduate and Graduate Catalog (pages 42-43). Failure to meet these guidelines will result in a course grade of 'F' and a written report will be submitted to the appropriate dean.

**Cell phones must be turned off during class.**

Grading: The final course grade is determined by attendance, participation, research presentation, and completion of assignments.

Attendance	130
Resume and Cover Letter	
Drafts	100
Final Versions	100
Research Presentation	
Content	100
Organization & Delivery	100
Journal Article Critique	50
<u>Abstract</u>	<u>50</u>
Total Points	630

Grading Scale:

90-100 A	80-89 B	70-79 C	60-69 D	< 60 F
----------	---------	---------	---------	--------

Course Schedule:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Subject (tentative)</u>
August 27	Introduction/ Biology Careers
<b>September 3</b>	<b>Labor Day/ No Class</b>
September 10	Resume & Cover Letter Writing/ Graduate School Application
September 17	Review of Resumes/ Mock Interviews
September 24	Review of Resumes/ Mock Interviews
October 1	Introduction to Oral Presentations
October 8	Introduction to Critical Scientific Reading & Writing
October 15	Journal Article Discussion/ Critique
<b>October 22</b>	<b>Fall Break/ No Class</b>
October 29	Research Presentation #1 & 2
November 5	Research Presentation #3 & 4
November 12	Research Presentation #5 & 6
<b>November 19</b>	<b>THANKSGIVING DAY</b>
November 26	Research Presentation #7 & 8
December 3	Research Presentation # 9 & 10