BIOL 4805 – Biology Capstone Seminar

When:  Wednesday 2:00-3:20pm (WH 218) and Friday 2:00-3:20 PM (ENV 110)

Course Description: Students read, present, and discuss scientific papers related to a weekly topic in the biological sciences. Students will also attend a weekly seminar on the same topic given by invited speakers who are prominent local, regional or national researchers.

Course Expectations: This course is a participation course. Students are expected to actively participate in all discussions, and attendance is required at all class meetings.

Grading:
- 18% Attendance and Participation (each absence -4%; more than 3 absences may result in removal from the course or a failing grade)
- 32% Discussion Questions
- 30% Class Presentations of Papers
- 20% Written Paper Analysis
- 100% (90% = A, 80% = B, 70% = C, 60% = D, <60% = F)

Each Wednesday, the class will review and discuss a scientific paper that students have read prior to class. A group of students will prepare a Powerpoint presentation and overview of the paper to be discussed. This pair will also lead the discussion. Each student will participate a minimum of two paper presentations. At each Wednesday discussion meeting, all students must:
- Read the assigned paper prior to class
- Prepare 3 questions about the paper’s contents or research that are turned in at the beginning of class (presenters do not have to prepare questions)
- Participate in the class discussion

Written Paper Analysis: During the course, each student will prepare a written analysis of a selected paper from the semester’s readings. This paper must be different than one on which they presented to the class.

Capstone Requirements: This course may be used to fulfill the University Core Requirement for a capstone. All students will participate in capstone assessments as part of the course requirements.

Friday Seminar Speaker Schedule for Spring 2014:

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Speaker (UNT host)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 17</td>
<td>Qingyi Yu, Texas A&amp;M Agrilife (Q. Dong)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 24</td>
<td>Cai-Zhong Jiang, USDA/ Univ. of California-Davis (Q. Dong)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 31</td>
<td>Kelly Reyna, UNT (J. Johnson)</td>
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Feb 7: M. Poncz, (Jagadeeswaran)
Feb 14: Xiangle Sun, UNT Health Sciences Center (A. Lund)
Feb 21: Libo Shan, Texas A&M (J. Shah)
Feb 28: P. Jagadeeswaran (faculty)
Mar 7: Lincoln Stein, (Q. Dong)
Mar 14: Spring break
Mar 21: David Sullivan, John Hopkins Univ. (V. Shulaev)
Mar 28: Nihal Dharmasiri, Texas State Univ. (R. Dickstein)
Apr 4: Peter Gogarten, Univ. of Connecticut (R. Azad)
Apr 11: David Hoeinghaus, UNT (La Point)
Apr 18: Nicoladie Tam, UNT (M. Hedrick)
Apr 25: M. Tegeder, Washington State Univ. (B. Ayre)
May 2: Prefinals week (seminar?)

Course Instructor: Dr. Lee Hughes, LIFE A205, 940-565-4137, lhughes@unt.edu
Office hours by appointment.