

BIOL 380 – Biology Senior Seminar
Spring 2016

Instructor: Leigh C. Latta IV

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PreReq: Bio 213

Office Hours: Thursday: 2:30-3:30, or by Appointment

Lecture: 12-12:50 Tuesday in MLH B10

Course objectives, goals and outcomes

The overarching goal of this class is to expose you to the scientific process from beginning to end. Specifically,

- To practice reading and interpreting the primary literature
- To prepare a short talk appropriate for scientific conferences
- To lead a discussion of a scientific topic
- To prepare a review article appropriate for publication

Evaluation

You will be graded on your satisfactory completion of the activities listed below.

Grading scale

90-100 = A

80-89 = B

70-79 = C

60-69 = D

59 and below = F

Academic Support and Accommodations

If you feel there is any physical or mental challenge to you that impedes your ability to participate in the class, please see me so we can address the issue. If you have any special medical needs if the building had to be quickly evacuated, also please inform me. Assistance with accommodation can also be found at the Office of Student Life, Room 111, Reid Centennial Hall.

Plagiarism policy

Although cheating is always objectionable, it is particularly so in a course directed towards research methods in science as honesty is one of the most fundamental tenets of research. For that reason, any act of plagiarism will result in disciplinary action. This action may include failure for the semester and reporting to the academic dean.

Academic Honesty Statement from the LCSC Student Code of Conduct:

Cheating or plagiarism in any form is unacceptable. The College functions to promote the cognitive and psychosocial development of all students. Therefore, all work submitted by a student must represent his/her own ideas, concepts and current understanding. Academic Dishonesty includes:

- a) Cheating—intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise. The term "academic exercise" includes all forms of work submitted for credit hours.
- b) Fabrication—intentional and/or unauthorized falsification or invention of any information or the source

of any information in an academic exercise.

- c) Collusion facilitating academic dishonesty—intentionally or knowingly helping or attempting to help another to commit an act of Academic Dishonesty.
- d) Plagiarism—the deliberate adoption or reproduction of ideas or words or statement of another person as one's own without acknowledgment.

The sanctions imposed for a violation of this section of the Code are independent of, and in addition to, any adverse academic evaluation which results from the student's conduct. The course instructor is responsible for academic evaluation of a student's work and shall make that evaluation without regard to any disciplinary action which may or may not be taken against a student under the Student Code of Conduct.

Presentation and Discussion Instructions

A large fraction of your grade in this course (50%) will be determined by your ability to clearly present research results via a prepared presentation, and your ability to lead and facilitate discussion of a scientific paper. Following is a list of steps and suggestions you should use as a guideline for your talk and discussion. The schedule of presenters based on the sign-up sheet is listed at the end of this document.

1) One week before you are scheduled to present a topic and lead a subsequent discussion you should send me a copy of the specific empirical paper to be presented and discussed so that I can post it on Blackboard for the other students in the class. If you choose this route I assume that you'll be using one of the empirical papers you chose earlier in the course, in which case I may already have a PDF and you would just need to let me know which paper to post on Blackboard. If you have switched gears and decided that you want to present something else make sure to get me a copy of the paper at least a week in advance. If you would like to do a presentation of your own research that you have conducted during your time here at LCSC you are welcome to do so. In that event, it is unlikely that anything has been published yet so you will have to prepare a short abstract (no more than one page) of your research so that we can orient ourselves to the biological problem you have investigated. You may also need additional assistance with data analysis, if this is the case then schedule an appointment with me and we will use R to do some preliminary data analysis. In addition, if you do choose to present your own research, I ask that, in addition to the brief abstract, you also provide an empirical paper of a similar nature to provide us with additional background information and methodological aspects of these types of investigations.

2) On your presentation/discussion day your first step will be to give a 10-12 minute powerpoint presentation on your empirical paper or your own research. Your presentation should be organized somewhat like an empirical paper, with a few slides devoted to outlining the question/problem you are addressing, a few slides that describe the methodology employed, a few slides describing the results, one or two slides that describe the main conclusion(s), and one slide that suggests future avenues of research. For this portion (which amounts to 25% of your total grade), I will be paying attention to the clarity of your presentation and the duration of your presentation. After you have finished your presentation I will allow 3-5 minutes for questions from the audience. Once you have completed your presentation you will then lead a 20-25 minute discussion of the paper (another 25% of your grade). I assume that your presentation will have touched upon the most salient point(s) of the paper, but most scientific papers are nuanced to some degree. Thus, during the discussion you should highlight some of the finer details of the subject/paper. You may also want to provide a more holistic view of the paper, and place the results into their broader biological context. Preparing a list of questions based on your subject prior to discussion is often a great way to stimulate discussion.

3) If you have any additional questions or concerns regarding this assignment feel free to contact me via email, during office hours, or schedule an appointment.

BIOL380: Biology Senior Seminar – schedule and assignments subject to change – pay attention during class!

Week #	Subjects	Assignment (point value)
1	Who am I? Who are you?	Identify a question/topic that interests you, email that question/topic to me (10 points)
2	Literature Searches	Find 3 papers (one review paper and two empirical papers) pertaining to a subject that interests you, prepare a literature cited document, and email the citation list (.doc format) and copies of the papers (.pdf format) to me (15 points)
3	Student Presentation	Choose one empirical paper and prepare a 12 minute powerpoint presentation on the paper (25 points) , lead a discussion of the paper for the remainder of the class period (25 points)
4	Student Presentation	Same as Week 6
5	Student Presentation	Same as Week 6
6	Student Presentation	Same as Week 6
7	Student Presentation	Same as Week 6
8	Student Presentation	Same as Week 6
9	Student Presentation	Same as Week 6
10	Student Presentation	Same as Week 6
11	Spring Break	Same as Week 6
12	Student Presentation	Same as Week 6
13	Student Presentation	Same as Week 6
14	Student Presentation	Same as Week 6
15	Student Presentation	Same as Week 6
16	Frank discussion of the course	Turn in Review Paper (Find at least 3 more papers related to your topic of interest and write a 3 page review of the subject [double spaced, Times New Roman 12 point font, 1 inch margins], 25 points)
FINALS		

The last day for dropping the course without a W on your transcript is Monday, February 1st.
The last day to withdraw from courses for the semester is Thursday, April 7th.

LEWIS-CLARK STATE COLLEGE Syllabus Addendum

Consumer Information

In 2008, the federal government required all post-secondary institutions offering federal financial aid programs to provide key data to both prospective and current students. To comply with this requirement, Lewis-Clark State College has developed a consumer information page, which may be accessed at <http://www.lcsc.edu/consumer-information/>

Disability Accommodations

Students requiring special accommodations or course adaptations due to a disability and/or a health-related issue should consult their course instructors and the LCSC Student Counseling Center immediately (RCH 111, 792-2211). Official documentation may be required in order to provide an accommodation and/or adaptation.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

Students have the responsibility for knowing their program requirements, course requirements, and other information associated with their enrollment at LCSC. Students should review the LCSC General Catalog (<http://webdev.lcsc.edu/catalog>) and the LCSC Student Handbook (<http://www.lcsc.edu/media/2157659/Student-Handbook.pdf>) for more information.

Accidents/Student Insurance

Students participating in LCSC classes normally must look to their personal health insurance policy (Student Health Insurance Plan or comparable private coverage) should an accident occur. In the event of an accident, please seek medical help, if necessary, and report the incident to LCSC Security (792-2226). Fieldtrips or other special student activities may also require students to submit a signed participation waiver (forms can be obtained from the supporting Division Office).

Enrollment Verification/Attendance

Students who are not actively pursuing their classes may have to repay part or all of their financial aid awards depending upon the circumstances.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty, which includes cheating and plagiarism, is not tolerated at LCSC. Individual faculty members may impose their own policies and sanctions regarding academic dishonesty after offering the student an opportunity to explain his or her actions. Sanctions imposed by the faculty member are limited to grades on the assignment(s) in question and/or on the course grade. On matters of academic dishonesty, faculty members do not have the authority to dismiss a student from class indefinitely nor to disenroll a student from a program without corroboration from a Division Chair (or program ethics committee where applicable), the appropriate instructional dean, and the Vice President for Student Affairs. Students who are accused of being academically dishonest may be referred to the VP for Student Affairs for official disciplinary action.

Illegal File Sharing

Students using LCSC's computers and/or computer network must comply with the college's appropriate use policies and are prohibited from illegally downloading or sharing data files of any kind. Specific information about the college's technology policies and its protocols for combating illegal file sharing may be found on the VP for Student Affairs' web page (<http://www.lcsc.edu/student-affairs/student-code-of-conduct/>).

Diversity Vision Statement

Regardless of race, color, age, sex, religion, national origin, disability, veteran status, or sexual orientation, you will be treated and respected as a human being.

Disclosures

During this course, if you elect to discuss information with me which you consider to be sensitive or personal in nature and not to be shared with others, please state this clearly. Your confidentiality in these circumstances will be respected unless upholding that confidentiality could reasonably put you, other students, other members of the campus community, or me in danger. In those cases or when I am bound by law to report what you have told me, such as incidents involving sexual assault or other violent acts, I will submit a report to appropriate campus authorities.

Student Feedback

Students shall be provided the opportunity to formally evaluate each course in which they are enrolled. Notification of student feedback opportunity and timelines will be made through the official LCSC student email (currently LCMail) or online course learning management (currently Blackboard Learn) systems.

Student Work

Student work for this course (assignments, quizzes, exams, projects, etc.) may be copied and retained for program assessment or accreditation purposes. For more information, speak with the instructor or division chair.

Approved by VP for Student Affairs & Provost 7/07/2015