

BIOL 4450C
Senior Seminar

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Course summary: Biology students present seminars on recent research topics based on their own research experience.

BIOL 4450 is a 1-credit course. It is a co-requisite for BIOL 4590 (Research Project Lab), since students will present their research from BIOL 4590 in the Senior Seminar course. Students who have chosen to take BIOL 4699 (Undergraduate Research) or BIOL 4910 (Honors Research Thesis) instead of BIOL 4590 as part of their Senior Research Experience will present their research from BIOL 4699/4910 in Senior Seminar. Therefore, in order to be enrolled in Senior Seminar, students must either be currently enrolled in BIOL 4590 OR BIOL 4699/4910, OR have already successfully completed BIOL 4699/4910 as their Undergraduate Research Experience.

BIOL 4450C meets on Wednesdays from 5:05-6:25 pm in Cherry Emerson room 320. Since there is no textbook and this is a presentation and discussion-based course, attendance and active participation are required. Should you miss a class, you must convince the instructor that the absence was excusable. Examples of excusable absences include documented illness, death in the family, accident. If you know that you are going to be absent from a lab, you must let the instructor know ahead of time. Each unexcused absence will lower the final grade by 10 points out of 100.

Office hours: By appointment. Please email or consult with instructor during class to set up a time. Students are also welcome to visit the instructor to talk about issues other than course material (e.g., career plans, research interests).

Evaluation:

Mini oral presentation	10%
Major oral presentation #1: research proposal	25%
Major oral presentation #2: research results	25%
Poster presentation	25%
Class participation	15%

Class participation will be judged by the extent to which each student participates in class discussions (by asking questions, answering questions, offering ideas, opinions, and critiques of student presentations). I expect to hear you ask a question or offer a comment at least once every class.

Please see www.honor.gatech.edu for Georgia Tech's Academic Honor Code, which you are required to uphold.

Class calendar:

Week	Date	Topic
1	Jan 10	Intro to the course – details regarding Senior Research Experience; Class discussion: How to give an effective oral presentation
2	Jan 17	Student mini oral presentations
3	Jan 24	Student mini oral presentations
4	Jan 31	Student mini oral presentations
5	Feb 7	Student oral presentations: research proposal
6	Feb 14	Student oral presentations: research proposal
7	Feb 21	Student oral presentations: research proposal
8	Feb 28	TBA
	Mar 7	Class discussion: How to write an effective manuscript
9	Mar 14	Class discussion: How to construct an effective poster
10	Mar 21	Spring break – no class
11	Mar 28	Student oral presentations: research results
12	Apr 4	Student oral presentations: research results
13	Apr 11	Student oral presentations: research results
14	Apr 18	Student oral presentations: research results
15	Apr 25 4-6pm	Poster presentations and end of semester celebration, jointly with BIOL 4450A and B