

**BIOL 4450A**  
**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 4450A meets on Mondays from 5:05-6:25 pm in Cherry Emerson room 204. 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%.

**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:**

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| <b>Mini oral presentation on biodiversity/renewable energy</b> | <b>10%</b> |
| <b>Major oral presentation #1: research proposal</b>           | <b>25%</b> |
| <b>Major oral presentation #2: research results</b>            | <b>25%</b> |
| <b>Poster presentation</b>                                     | <b>25%</b> |
| <b>Class participation</b>                                     | <b>15%</b> |

**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](http://www.honor.gatech.edu) for Georgia Tech's Academic Honor Code, which you are required to uphold.

**Class calendar:**

| <b>Week</b> | <b>Date</b>                     | <b>Topic</b>   |
|-------------|---------------------------------|--|
| 1           | Aug 21                          | Intro to the course – details regarding Senior Research Experience;<br>Class discussion: How to give an effective oral presentation  |
| 2           | * <i>Tues</i><br>Aug 29<br>5pm* | Lecture by Dr. Kubanek & Dr. Cairney: Biodiversity and Renewable Energy<br>( <i>note the unusual time; this class to be combined with BIOL 4450B; there will be no class on Monday Aug 28<sup>th</sup></i> ) |
| 3           | Sept 4                          | No class (Labor Day)   |
| 4           | Sept 11                         | Student mini oral presentations: biodiversity and renewable energy   |
| 5           | Sept 18                         | Student mini oral presentations: biodiversity and renewable energy   |
| 6           | Sept 25                         | Student oral presentations: research proposal  |
| 7           | Oct 2                           | Student oral presentations: research proposal  |
| 8           | Oct 9                           | Student oral presentations: research proposal  |
| 9           | Oct 16                          | No class (Fall break)  |
| 10          | Oct 23                          | Class discussion: How to write an effective manuscript   |
| 11          | Oct 30                          | Open   |
| 12          | Nov 6                           | Class discussion: How to construct an effective poster   |
| 13          | Nov 13                          | Student oral presentations: research results   |
| 14          | Nov 20                          | Student oral presentations: research results   |
| 15          | Nov 27                          | Student oral presentations: research results   |
| 16          | Dec 4<br>4-6pm                  | Poster presentations and end of semester celebration, jointly with BIOL 4450B  |