

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 4690 (Independent Research Project) or BIOL 4910 (Honors Research Thesis) instead of BIOL 4590 as part of their Senior Research Experience will present their research from BIOL 4690/4910 in Senior Seminar. Therefore, in order to be enrolled in Senior Seminar, students must either be currently enrolled in BIOL 4590 OR BIOL 4690/4910, OR have already successfully completed BIOL 4690/4910 as their Senior Research Experience.

BIOL 4450A meets on Mondays from 5:05-6:25 pm in Cherry Emerson room 320. Since 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%.

Required text: Writing Papers in the Biological Sciences by Victoria E. McMillan (4th edition), Bedford/St.Martin's, Boston/NY, 2006. Approx. \$25.

Office hours: By appointment. Please email or consult with instructor during class to set up a meeting. 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	Aug 18	Intro to the course – details regarding Senior Research Experience; Class discussion: How to give an effective oral presentation
2	Aug 25	Student mini oral presentations & discussion for improvement
3	Sept 1	No class (Labor Day)
4	Sept 8	Student mini oral presentations & discussion for improvement
5	Sept 15	Student mini oral presentations & discussion for improvement
6	Sept 22	Open
7	Sept 29	Class discussion: How to write an effective manuscript
8	Oct 6	Student oral presentations: research proposal
9	Oct 13	No class (Fall break)
10	Oct 20	Student oral presentations: research proposal
11	Oct 27	Student oral presentations: research proposal
12	Nov 3	Class discussion: How to construct an effective poster
13	Nov 10	Student oral presentations: research results
14	Nov 17	Student oral presentations: research results
15	Nov 24	Student oral presentations: research results
16	Dec 1 4-6pm	Poster presentations and end of semester celebration, jointly with BIOL 4450B and BIOL 4450C