
BIOT 5101 Student Seminar Credit Hours: 1

Semester: Fall **Year:** 2026
Class Day/Time: TBA **Class location:** TBA
Instructor of Record: Dr. Mitsuo Ikebe
Office: Department of Cellular and Molecular Biology Room 104
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Office Hours: TBA

Course Description: The Student Seminar course is 1 hour course designed to help prepare students to present their final thesis presentation at the end of their Master's program in Biotechnology. To accomplish this, students are given the opportunity to present **journal articles** once a semester in the same format that they will be required to give their thesis presentation. Students will take this course every semester (Fall and Spring).

Prerequisite: Must be enrolled or completed Critical Reading **Co-requisite:** None

Goals of Course:

Students will gain skills in presenting scientific research.

1. Pick an appropriate journal article to research and present to class
2. Prepare a scientific presentation containing power point slides
3. Present findings of journal article to class.
4. Demonstrate understanding of the research performed in the journal article.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLO or "course objectives"):

1. Students will demonstrate the ability to successfully break down a journal article into its correct parts for analysis.
2. Students will create a PowerPoint presentation to present the findings of the journal article.
3. Students will explain and discuss the importance of the journal article and related findings in a presentation setting.

Subject-specific Skills:

Students will build on public speaking skills as well as preparing Power Point presentations for the scientific community.

Course Assessment/Methods of Evaluation:

Students will be evaluated on their ability to present journal article materials in a logical manner. Student must demonstrate mastery of the material presented by answering questions pertaining directly to the research described in their presentation. **Information of the paper (Title, authors' names, journal name, year, volume, page number), Summary (less than one page (double space)) of presentation and the whole paper (PDF) should be submitted to Jorge Arellano by Friday of the week prior to the presentation. The summary of presentation should be written by your own words including your thought. (Do not copy and paste the ABSTRACT of the paper. This may reduce the points.) Students are expected to prepare their power point presentation prior to the seminar to be ready for the questions and comments.**

Oral Presentation -- One presentation per semester. The presentation is 20 minutes max and 10 minutes of questions. (30%)

Attendance -- 15 weeks (35%) Sign-up sheet is provided in the class. Missing more than

two Student Seminar may fail in the course. Students will be considered absent if they arrive more than **15 minutes** after the start of class. Students are expected to attend both student seminar and faculty seminar each week. **Attendance at Faculty Seminar is mandatory (15%).** Missing more than three faculty seminars may result in a 15% reduction of your total grade. **Sign-up sheet/QR code is provided in the class.**

Participation -- Students are required to ask at least five questions per semester (20%)

Linked Program Learning Outcomes:

The student learning outcomes listed above address the following Biotechnology Program PLOs:

- PLO-1. The student will demonstrate English communication skills in both oral and written forms.
- PLO-5. The student will explain the principles, mechanisms and interrelatedness of both in vivo and in vitro biochemical, molecular biological and genetic processes.

Textbook:

None

Other Class Policies

Attendance:

Regular or punctual attendance is expected. If a student misses a class or lab, the student is responsible for obtaining any information distributed during those times. Make-ups are possible only under certain instances (labs cannot be made up). Arrangements for any make-ups and/or missed labs should be discussed directly with the instructor for that day's class.

Participation:

Participation is key to the success in this class

Academic Honesty:

Any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

Cheating

Dishonesty of any kind involving examinations, assignments, alteration of records, wrongful possession of examinations, and unpermitted submission of duplicate papers for multiple classes or unauthorized use of keys to examinations is considered cheating. Cheating includes but is not limited to:

- Using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class.
- Falsifying or inventing any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise.
- Helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Materials, even ideas, borrowed from others necessitate full and complete acknowledgment of the original authors. Offering the work of another as one's own is plagiarism and is unacceptable in the academic community. A lack of adequate recognition constitutes plagiarism, whether it utilizes a few sentences, whole paragraphs, articles, books, audio-visual materials, or even the writing of a fellow student. In addition, the presentation of material gathered, assembled or formatted by others as one's own is also plagiarism. Because the university takes such misconduct very seriously, the student is urged to carefully read university policies on Misconduct in Research and Other Scholarly Activity 05.00. Examples of plagiarism are:

- Submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another.

- Submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source.
- Incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit.

Adding/Dropping:

The official deadline for adding and dropping courses is as published in the academic calendar ([Registrar Withdrawal webpage](#)). However, students are strongly encouraged to meet with their graduate advisor or the

Program Coordinator prior to adding/dropping courses. Movement into and out of classes after the 4th class day requires approval of the Program Director. Each student is responsible for their own enrollment status with the university.

Disability Accommodations:

UT Tyler HSC abides by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act, which mandate reasonable accommodations be provided for students with documented disabilities. If you have a disability and may require some type of instructional and/or examination accommodations, please contact me early in the semester so that I can provide or facilitate provision of accommodations you may need. If you have not already done so, you will need to register with the Student Services Office (located on the main campus). You may call 903-566-7079 for more information.

The University of Texas at
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Program:	Master of Science in Biotechnology
Degree:	MS
Department:	Cellular and Molecular Biology
School:	Medical Biological Sciences
Course:	BIOT5101/6101 – Biotechnology Research Seminar I & II

Area	Marketable Skill*
TECHNOLOGY SKILLS	Graphics or photo imaging software - GraphPad, Adobe, ImageJ
	Office suite software — Microsoft Office (Word, Excel)
	Presentation software — Microsoft PowerPoint
SKILLS	Critical Thinking — Using logic and reasoning to identify the strengths and weaknesses of alternative solutions, conclusions, or approaches to problems.
	Active Listening — Giving full attention to what other people are saying, taking time to understand the points being made, asking questions as appropriate, and not interrupting at inappropriate times.
ABILITIES	Oral Comprehension — The ability to listen to and understand information and ideas presented through spoken words and sentences.
	Inductive Reasoning — The ability to combine pieces of information to form general rules or conclusions (includes finding a relationship among seemingly unrelated events).
	Oral Expression — The ability to communicate information and ideas in speaking so others will understand.
WORK ACTIVITIES	Analyzing Data or Information — Identifying the underlying principles, reasons, or facts of information by breaking down information or data into separate parts.

*All marketable skills listed for this course and program were drawn from the Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities identified by the US Department of Labor and Statistics for “Biological Technicians” and “Molecular and Cellular Biologists” as published on O*Net Online (www.onetonline.org)