Instructor: Candy Kammerer
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Office hours: By appointment
Course website: http://courseweb.pitt.edu

Goals of the Course
The goal of the one-credit course, Journal Club and Peer Review, is twofold: (1) to practice critiquing papers and information from the media and (2) learn to develop a Curriculum Vitae (CV) and Individual Development Plan (IDP).

Rationale:
The purpose of this course is to provide an environment in which to hone your written and oral critical evaluation skills, practice for the M.S. and Ph.D. qualifying exams in Human Genetics, and prepare documents to help assess your graduate and future careers.

Objectives:
Upon completion, students will be able to
• critique papers from the literature and the media
• practice presentation skills
• develop an individualized development plan for their graduate career
• develop a curriculum vita

Teaching Philosophy:
This course emphasizes active participation, critical thinking, and continued learning. Because we all know different things and have experienced different events, all questions and viewpoints are encouraged and respected in the classroom and in groups. Everybody should participate - let Candy Kammerer be your role model: ask stupid questions, float crazy ideas, and don't be embarrassed. [Note: There really are no stupid questions, and crazy ideas are the basis of scientific innovation]. You will need critical thinking skills to be successful in your career in science.

Responsibilities and Expectations of Students in the Classroom:
• Please turn off cell phones and do not record lecture or presentation unless you have received prior approval from the instructor.
• For the student presentations, read the abstract, bring a copy of the paper, and have thought about it a little. Identify some questions ahead of time.
• Ask questions. If you don't understand what's interesting or important about the paper, ask. If you don't understand the terminology being used, ask. (If you don't ask, Candy may ask you to explain.)

Responsibilities and expectations for presenters
• Students are advised to get advice from a faculty member when choosing a paper to present. The ideal journal club article is something that is of both scientific importance and general interest.
• Let the instructor know what your choice is the week before your presentation so that the link can be posted on the web site.
• Please let the instructor know if you need a laptop or other media requirements.
• Presentations should begin with an introduction to the general topic area and what is interesting or important about the work being presented. Try to explain key concepts and definitions. Do not assume everyone in the audience is an expert or that everyone in the audience has read the paper.

Academic Integrity:
All students are expected to adhere to the school’s standards of academic honesty. Any work submitted by a student for evaluation must represent his/her own intellectual contribution and efforts. The GSPH policy on academic integrity, which is based on the University policy, is available online at http://www.publichealth.pitt.edu/interior.php?pageID=126. The policy includes obligations for faculty and students, procedures for adjudicating violations, and other critical information. Please take the time to read this policy.

Students committing acts of academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration on assignments, cheating on exams, misrepresentation of data, and facilitating dishonesty by others, will receive sanctions appropriate to the violation(s) committed. Sanctions include, but are not limited to, reduction of a grade for an assignment or a course, failure of a course, and dismissal from GSPH. All student violations of academic integrity must be documented by the appropriate faculty member; this documentation will be kept in a confidential student file maintained by the GSPH Office of Student Affairs. If a sanction for a violation is agreed upon by the student and instructor, the record of this agreement will be expunged from the student file upon the student’s graduation. If the case is referred to the GSPH Academic Integrity Hearing Board, a record will remain in the student’s permanent file. Repeat violations automatically will be referred to the Hearing Board.

Plagiarism:
University of Pittsburgh policy: “Integrity of the academic process requires that credit be given where credit is due. Accordingly, it is unethical to present as one’s own work the ideas, representations, words of another, or to permit another to present one’s own work without customary and proper acknowledgement of sources.

A student has an obligation to exhibit honesty and to respect the ethical standards of the profession in carrying out his or her academic assignments. Without limiting the application of this principle, a student may be found to have violated this obligation if he or she:

10. Presents as one’s own, for academic evaluation, the ideas, representations, or words of another person or persons without customary and proper acknowledgment of sources.
11. Submits the work of another person in a manner which represents the work to be one’s own.”
Source: http://www.bc.pitt.edu/policies/policy/02/02-03-02.html

Therefore, you must clearly indicate which thoughts are yours and which thoughts belong to others by citing your sources. If you are uncertain, please contact the instructor. Plagiarism detection software will be used in this course. If plagiarism is detected, you will automatically receive a grade of zero for that assignment.

Disabilities:
If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and Disability Resources and Services, 140 William Pitt Union, 412-648-7890 or 412-383-7355 (TTY) as early as possible in the term. DRS will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for specific courses.

Course website:
All readings and course material will be found on Courseweb and/or on the HUGEN Student Journal Club Website (http://courseweb.pitt.edu).
Textbooks:
There is no required textbook for this course.

Class Structure

All classes will start on time (1:30pm).
At the beginning of each class, we will spend approximately 5-10 minutes discussing “Genetics in the News”.

Next a student will present a research article. The presentation should be 35-40 minutes (this will allow 10 minutes for questions by the instructor, faculty, and students throughout the presentation).

The class will assess the presentation and turn in the assessment at the end of class.

Evaluation/Grading:

Class attendance (1 pt each) 14
Participation and evaluation (1 pt each) + first day class 14
Document containing three “Genetics in the News” items (including a brief comment on each) 3
Curriculum Vita 1
Individualized Development Plan 1

Total 33

Grade Total Points
A 31-33
A- 30
B+ 29
B 28
B- 27
C+ 25
C 24
C- 23
F ≤ 22
**Agenda - Spring 2017 (Date/Presentor or Topic)**

6 January 2017 • Introduction

13 January 2015 • IDP and CV Instructions

20 January 2017 • How to do a presentation

27 January 2017 • Kammerer
   Paper: Muggenthaler et al. Mutations in HYAL2, Encoding Hyaluronidase2, Cause a Syndrome of Orofacial Clefting and Cor Triatriatum Sinister in Humans and Mice. PLOS Genetics 2017 | DOI:10.1371/journal.pgen.1006470

03 February 2017 • Minster, Urban, Weeks

10 February 2017 • Minster, Urban, Weeks

17 February 2017 • Rehab Sherlala
   paper TBA

24 February 2017 • Richard Biedrzycki
   paper TBA

03 March 2017 • No Journal Club – Spring Break

10 March 2017 • No Journal Club - Spring Break

17 March 2017 • Zeynep Erdogan-Yildirim
   paper TBA

24 March 2017 • Liyan Yang
   paper TBA

31 April 2015 • Yunqi Li
   paper TBA

07 April 2015 • Erika Dreikorn
   paper TBA
14 April 2015 • Amanda Everman
   paper TBA

21 April 2015 • Discussion of student IDP and CVs

28 April 2015 • C.C. Li Symposium - No Journal club