

BIOS 704: Topics in Biosciences
BIOL 695: Seminar in Molecular and Microbiology

“Viruses and the Blood-Brain Barrier”

Spring 2017, Thursdays 4:30 pm – 5:20 pm
Bull Run Hall, Rm 252

Instructor: Dr. Kylene Kehn-Hall
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Office Hours: By appointment
Office: Biomedical Research Laboratory 1010

Overview

This course presents an opportunity for students to learn how to critically evaluate and to present basic research papers, with a special emphasis on the interplay between viruses and the blood-brain barrier (BBB). It also requires students to perform a literature review on a defined topic, assimilate this information, and convey this in a written format.

Grading

- Presentations (40%)
- Participation (20%)
- Research Paper (40%)

Presentations (40%)

Students will present 1 journal article to the class. Presentations should minimally include: 1) background information, 2) material and methods, 3) results, and 4) conclusions. Papers will be presented either individually (for Ph.D. students) or in groups (for M.S. students). When papers are presented as a group, students should participate in the presentation as equally as possible; with each student presenting some of the data. Each presentation should be approximately 30 minutes, leaving the remainder of the class for discussion and questions. Questions may be asked throughout the presentation by the instructor and other students.

Participation (20%)

Students are expected to read all research papers prior to class so that they can discuss the paper and ask questions during the class period. It is expected that every student asks one question per presentation.

Research Paper (40%)

Students must write a research paper describing the BBB and how a particular virus (selected by the student) influences the BBB. The paper must go beyond what has been discussed/presented in class. The write-up should be no more than five pages (single-spaced), with a separate page listing the references used. References should be cited throughout where appropriate.

Schedule

January 26	Course overview and topic/presentation assignments
February 2	Introduction on the BBB
February 9	Student presentations
February 16	Student presentations
February 23	Student presentations
March 2	Student presentations
March 9	Student presentations
March 16	NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK
March 23	Student presentations
March 30	Student presentations
April 6	Student presentations
April 13	Student presentations
April 20	Student presentations
April 27	MAKE-UP
May 4	Final written assignment due

Make-up days are provided in case presentations run over the scheduled time and/or class has to be canceled. The presentation schedule will be posted following the first day of class.

Disability Statement

- If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Office of Disability Resources at 703-993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.

Honor Code Statement

- George Mason University has an Honor Code, which requires all members of this community to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Cheating, plagiarism, lying, and stealing are all prohibited
- All violations of the Honor Code will be reported to the Honor Committee.
- See honorcode.gmu.edu for more detailed information.

Enrollment Statement

- Students are responsible for verifying their enrollment in this class.
- Schedule adjustments should be made by the deadlines published in the Schedule of Classes.
 - Last Day to Add: **Jan. 30th**
 - Last Day to Drop: **Feb. 24th**
- After the last day to drop a class, withdrawing from this class requires the approval of the dean and is only allowed for nonacademic reasons.
- Undergraduate students may choose to exercise a selective withdrawal.
- See the Schedule of Classes for selective withdrawal procedures.