

**Department:** MCB

**Course number:** 4994W

**Course title:** Honors Undergraduate Seminar

**Credits:** 2

**Contact Person:** Kenneth Noll

**Content Area:** CA 3

**Q/W:** W

**Catalog Copy:** MCB4994W Honors Undergraduate Seminar Either semester. Two credits. Open to honors students; non-honors students require consent of instructor. Prerequisite: ENGL 110 or 111 or 250 and at least one 200 level MCB course. May be taken for W credit once and not repeated. Students will attend six to eight research seminars and write papers about the topics presented in each seminar. Students will be introduced to electronic journal databases and their uses.

**Justification:**

This course would help to fill the need for MCB 200's-level W courses mandated by the Senate's revised Gen Ed requirements. This course provides students with an opportunity to learn about the process of research in molecular biology from the practitioners rather than from written sources. It also provides them with practice in discussing scientific topics in the language of science using sources other than textbooks.

**How Meets Goals of Gen Ed**

This course provides students with an opportunity to learn about the process of research in molecular biology from the practitioners rather than from written sources. It also provides them with practice in discussing scientific topics in the language of science using sources other than textbooks. Students will be forced to draw upon the primary scientific literature (i.e. journal articles) and oral presentations to learn new information.

**W Criteria:** :

1. The writing assignments enable and enhance learning the content of the course.
2. The course requires a minimum of fifteen pages of revised, edited writing.

3. The student must pass the “W” component in order to pass the course

**Supplementary Information:**

**Syllabus:**

**MCB 2XXW (MCB4994W) Honors Undergraduate Seminar**

Lecture/Discussion: Day/Time, Room BSPXXX

Instructor: XXX

Phone: 486-XXX

Office: XXX

Email: XXX@uconn.edu

This course is designed to acquaint you with current developments in the many research areas of modern molecular and cell biology. You will hear about these developments from the investigators who conduct the research as well as through examinations of their published work. You will demonstrate your knowledge of these topics through writing assignments. These assignments will allow you to continue to develop your writing skills and to learn to express your knowledge of scientific information in the appropriate terms. You will gain experience in writing concisely and in expressing information in clear and logical prose.

Your final grade in the course will be based upon the quality of your writing, your attendance at the assigned seminars, your participation in class discussions and evaluations of other students' writing. Grades will be assigned based upon the grading rubric provided below.

Each week you will attend a seminar presented by MCB. You should take notes during those seminars to learn what scientific questions were posed by the investigator, the context in which the work was performed (the background knowledge in the field of study), the means by which the data were gathered, how the data were interpreted, the major conclusions the investigators were able (or not able) to draw, and the future direction of their research. Prior to each seminar, a published article from the laboratory of the seminar speaker will be provided.

Following the seminar, each student will write a two-page, double-spaced paper describing the seminar's topic. The paper will provide the information described above. The papers will be printed in a 12-point font with one-inch margins (top, bottom, left and right). Check the default settings on your word processing software since sometimes those are 1.25 inch. You may print it double-sided or on two pages stapled (not clipped) together.

You will attend one class each week in which we will discuss the seminar and provide critical reading of our draft paper. You need to bring your draft paper with you. This class period will also provide an opportunity to answer questions about the seminar and the background reading. It is essential that everyone participate in these discussions so that we can learn from one another. The draft paper will be shared with another student for critical reading and comments. The instructor will also provide comments during this time.

Following the class session, you will re-write the paper and submit the marked draft with the revised paper to the instructor for grading. Attendance at every class is essential, so attendance will be taken and used as part of your final course grade. If you fail the “W” component requirements of the course (*i.e.* satisfactory completion of a minimum of fifteen pages of revised, edited writing), you will receive a failing grade for the course.

**List course requirements:**

Each week you will attend a seminar presented by MCB. learn what scientific questions were posed by the investigator, the context in which the work was performed (the background knowledge in the field of study), the means by which the data were gathered, how the data were interpreted, the major conclusions the investigators were able (or not able) to draw, and the future direction of their research. Prior to each seminar, a published article from the laboratory of the seminar speaker will be provided. Following the seminar, each student will write a two-page, double-spaced paper describing the seminar’s topic. You will attend one class each week in which we will discuss the seminar and provide critical reading of our draft paper. Following the class session, you will re-write the paper and submit the marked draft with the revised paper to the instructor for grading.

**List major themes and topics to be covered:**

This course is designed to acquaint you with current developments in the many research areas of modern molecular and cell biology. You will hear about these developments from the investigators who conduct the research as well as through examinations of their published work. You will demonstrate your knowledge of these topics through writing assignments. These assignments will allow you to continue to develop your writing skills and to learn to express your knowledge of scientific information in the appropriate terms. You will gain experience in writing concisely and in expressing information in clear and logical prose.