Meeting Time and Location:
Wednesdays, period 8 (3:00 to 3:50 p.m.), beginning January 9, 1301 Fifield Hall

Course Registration:
1 credit, departmentally controlled (contact Eliana Kampf elianak@ufl.edu for enrollment), limited to 15 students

Course Summary:
This Journal Colloquium covers relevant topics in Plant Molecular & Cellular Biology with a professional development focus in scientific communication. Students will also have the opportunity to guide and lead a classroom, and practice engaging a classroom of student peers, providing peer review, and explaining scientific concepts and methods of which they are an expert in.

Instructors:
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Facilitators:
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Course Goal:
The goal of this course is to explore topics and expertise of graduate students in Plant Molecular & Cellular Biology (and related fields) with a focus on scientific communication, peer review, and leadership. This course empowers students to take initiative of their own learning and interests, while providing them a low-risk environment to practice efficient communication of their own research as well as how to engage and lead a classroom. In addition, participants are expected to broaden their scientific horizon and receive exposure to new topics and techniques thank to the multidisciplinary nature of this course.

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes:
At the completion of the course, students should be able to:
• Synthesize their own 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) presentation for competition at the UF 2019 3MT;
• Provide valuable critique and evaluation of their peer’s work;
• Have experience communicating their own independent research in simple terms;
• Receive exposure to unfamiliar research topics to develop new scientific perspectives.

Course Expectations:
• Read papers selected by students;
• Provide honest, fair and mature review comments to peers;
• Proactively participate in the discussion;
• Lead one discussion on a topic of choice;
• Complete a 3MT presentation.

Course Organization:
This class will meet once a week and students will be evaluated in class by peer review comments, presentation on a paper of their choice, and a 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) presentation. Each class will begin with the student presenter of the day giving a 3MT presentation relevant to their research. During the presentation students will fill out evaluationw. After the 3MT, the student presenter will give a 10 minute presentation introducing their chosen paper. The remaining of the class will be a discussion about the chosen paper facilitated by the student presenter of the day. Ideally the 3MT should act as a precursor to the paper, meaning the chosen paper should be related to the student presenter’s own research. If two students are assigned to a single day, each student will give an individual 3MT, but they will collectively give the 10 minute introduction and facilitate the discussion.

Class Paper Selection:
Please select a paper that you understand COMPLETELY and can be an expert on to explain to the class. Choose one relevant and unique to your research. Share a pdf of the paper with the TAs by Friday, Jan 25th so they can share with the class before your presentation. If you would like to change papers, just let the TA’s know at least 2 weeks prior to the your presentation.

Class Paper Presentation:
Prepare a 10 minute presentation (duration of presentation depends on total number of students enrolled in class) covering the background, purpose, methods, results, and lasting impact of the paper.

Class Paper Discussion Facilitation:
Since you should be an expert on the paper you’ve selected, prepare a set of discussion questions and ideas that you would like the class to focus on. You will not need to turn in any physical evidence but will be evaluated on your leadership and apparent preparation to guide an engaging and exciting discussion.

3MT: Prior to your paper presentation, you will give a 3MT presentation about your research (or research you’ve completed in the past) according to the rules of the official UF 3MT competition.
Information can be found at [http://graduateschool.ufl.edu/about-us/events/3mt/](http://graduateschool.ufl.edu/about-us/events/3mt/) and here as well: *Three Minute Thesis (3MT)* is a research communication competition developed by the University of Queensland in Australia. It challenges graduate students to make a compelling presentation on their thesis topic and its significance in just three minutes. The competition helps students develop academic, presentation and research communication skills and the capacity to explain their research to a non-academic audience.

**Prizes:** The official UF competition provides monetary reward for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners.

**Rules:**
- A single static PowerPoint slide is permitted (no slide transitions, animations or movement of any kind, the slide is to be presented from the beginning of the oration).
- No additional electronic media (e.g., sound and video files) are permitted.
- No additional props (e.g., costumes, musical instruments, laboratory equipment) are permitted.
- Presentations are limited to 3 minutes maximum and competitors exceeding 3 minutes are disqualified.
- Presentations are to be spoken word (e.g., no poems, raps or songs).
- Presentations are to commence from the stage.
- Presentations are considered to have commenced when a presenter starts their presentation through movement or speech.

**Judging Criteria:**
1. Communication Style: Was the thesis topic and its significance communicated in language appropriate to an intelligent but non-specialist audience?
2. Comprehension: Did the presentation help the audience understand the research?
3. Engagement: Did the presentation make the audience want to know more?

**Class Participation:**
Participation in the paper discussions and peer feedback is required. Participation will be assessed by attendance and questions asked and/or comments made during class. Please let us know if you are unable to attend class.

**Student 3MT Feedback:**
Students will be provided with a guided rubric for providing their peers feedback on their 3MT (based on the official judging criteria). Students will be required to fulfill at least 10 of these peer review comments. Turn these in up to one week after the evaluated student’s presentation date. Final review comments will be ultimately anonymous to the students.

**Class Evaluation and Grading:**
Course grades will be based on 150 points. Task items will be evaluated based on *completion*. Peer review comments will provide insight into the *quality* of your work but peer feedback will not be used to determine your final grade. Final grading is decided by class instructors only.
UF Grading and Grades Policy: [https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades](https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades)

Course Schedule:

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**Activity** | **Points**
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3MT (first version) | 20
3MT (final version) | 30
Paper Selection by Jan 25 | 5
Paper Presentation | 30
Paper Discussion Facilitation | 30
Review Comments (at least 10) | 20
Participation | 15
**Total Points** | **150**

**University of Florida Honor Code:**
The University of Florida Honor Code was recently revised (3/16/2010) and may be found in the Regulations of the University of Florida under section 6C1-4.041

Preamble: In adopting this Honor Code, the students of the University of Florida recognize that academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students who enroll at the University commit to holding themselves and their peers to the high standard of honor required by the Honor Code. Any individual who becomes aware of a violation of the
Honor Code is bound by honor to take corrective action. Student and faculty support are crucial to the success of the Honor Code. The quality of a University of Florida education is dependent upon the community acceptance and enforcement of the Honor Code.

The Honor Pledge:
"We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code." On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "on my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."

REMEMBER: YOU HAVE SIGNED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT:
"I understand that the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to adhere to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University."

University of Florida Counseling Services:
If during the course of the semester you experience a personal crisis, help is available through the Counseling and Wellness Center is located at 3190 Radio Rd. The phone number is 352.392.1575. If you or someone you know is experiencing a crisis: the Counseling and Wellness Center (CWC) is available to help. Students presenting in emergency circumstances during office hours will be seen by Center staff to provide timely assistance. CWC counselors also provide consultation to faculty and staff working in crisis situations where student well-being in a classroom or other university setting is of concern.

Access to Emergency Services:
Radio Road Site: Students can walk-in to the CWC Radio Road site located at 3190 Radio Road (just west of the Lakeside Residence Hall complex) Students, faculty and staff can contact the CWC by calling 352-392-1576.

Peabody Hall Site: Students may also be brought by faculty and staff to the CWC Crisis and Emergency Resource Center located on the 4th floor of Peabody Hall [adjacent to Criser Hall]. Faculty and Staff may contact the CERC by calling 352-392-1576.

Hours of Operation:
Radio Road – The CWC at 3190 Radio Road is open from 8-5 Monday through Friday. You may talk to your counselor about availability after 5 pm. Peabody Hall Crisis and Emergency Resource Center: Office hours are Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Evening and Weekend Resources:
For urgent concerns occurring after business hours or on the weekend, phone consultation services are available by calling: the Counseling and Wellness Center at (352) 392-1575 or the
Alachua County Crisis Center (352) 264-6789. More information is available on the web at: http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/default.

Evening and Weekend Resources – for emergencies occurring in the evening or on the weekend, crisis-counseling services are available through the Alachua County Crisis Center by calling 264-6789. Students may also call the clinician on-call at Student Mental Health for phone call back and consultation at 392-1171.

**Students with Disabilities Act:**
Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 are the primary pieces of legislation that affect postsecondary institutions and students with disabilities. The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 was designed to empower individuals with disabilities to gain employment, economic self-sufficiency, independence, inclusion and integration into society. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 was designed to ensure that any program or activity receiving federal assistance did not discriminate on the basis of disability for “otherwise qualified” individuals. No “otherwise qualified” individuals, solely by reason of their disabilities can “be denied the benefits of, be excluded from participation in, or be subjected to discrimination” in these programs.

Reasonable accommodations are established by the Disability Resource Center (DRC). Students with disabilities are issued accommodation letters which specify their accommodations and are responsible for providing the letters to their faculty members. Upon receipt of the accommodation letter, a faculty member is responsible for reviewing the information in the letter and providing the requested accommodations. If there are any questions or concerns about the information contained in the letter, a faculty member should immediately contact the Disability Resource Center.

Unless the DRC is contacted, it can only be assumed that there are no questions or concerns with any particular student's accommodation package. Most classroom accommodations are easy to arrange and will not take much time to administer. If, however, assistance is needed, please contact the DRC. The Disability Resource Center attempts to make the accommodation process as efficient and effective as possible for everyone involved. For more information on student services please call 352.392.8565, or visit office 0001 Reid Hall, or the webpage at: www.dso.ufl.edu/drc