

Spring 2020 PMCB JOURNAL COLLOQUIUM TOPICS

1. PCB 7922 Writing and Peer Review in Plant Molecular & Cellular Biology

Are you experiencing writing woes? Working on your dissertation, writing fellowship essays, or preparing a paper for publication? This course will explore what makes good scientific writing and the peer review process using your actual writing samples. Get reviews on your work while learning how to appropriately give constructive peer review critique. The goal of this course is to improve the scientific writing and peer review skills of graduate students in the fields of plant science, molecular biology, plant pathology, and related topics, all while advancing work on your real-world writing pieces.

In this Journal Colloquium participants will:

- Recall procedural process of peer review and publishing in scientific journals.
- Prepare a complete scientific document (dissertation, scientific paper, or fellowship application).
- Practice and apply the process of peer review and scientific paper publication.
- Generate constructive criticism of peer-review writing quality.

INSTRUCTOR:	Dr. Patricio Munoz p.munoz@ufl.edu
TEACHING ASSISTANT:	Ann Bernert abernert@ufl.edu
MEETING TIME:	Wednesdays, 4:05-4:55 pm (period 9)
LOCATION:	2318 Fifield Hall
CLASS SIZE LIMIT:	15 students
REGISTRATION:	Departmentally controlled, request registration with Eliana Kampf at elianak@ufl.edu
CLASS SYLLABUS:	Click here

2. PCB 7922 Biotech Solutions in Medicine, Conservation and Food Security

Agriculture faces unprecedented challenges from weather, regulation, labor issues, trade, new pests and new pathogens. Many human diseases initiate at the level of DNA. Contemporary biotechnology tools have the potential to at least partially address some of our time's most pressing problems.

In this Journal Colloquium participants will:

- Identify a problem, describe its effects, and propose plausible solutions based on the current literature. Extrapolations of existing technology are acceptable.
- Distill their 50-minute presentations to a 10-minute YouTube video
- Prepare an essay for a class-associated website or other online outlet.

Grading will be based on innovative thinking, understanding of the technology, the quality of presentation, and use of rhetoric. Personal guidance will be provided.

INSTRUCTORS: Dr. Chris Barbey (cbarbey@ufl.edu), Dr. Kevin Folta (kfolta@ufl.edu)
MEETING TIME: Wednesdays, 4:05-4:55 pm (period 9)
LOCATION: 1301 Fifield Hall
CLASS SIZE LIMIT: 15 students
REGISTRATION: Departmentally controlled, request registration w/ Eliana Kampf at elianak@ufl.edu
CLASS SYLLABUS: [Click here](#)

3. PCB 7922 Plant Developmental Genetics

Genes that alter plant development impact all aspects of agricultural productivity. It is critical for molecular biologists and breeders to understand developmental biology as part of plant improvement. The goal of this journal club is to discuss current literature on genetic mechanisms controlling the plant body plan and cell differentiation. The course will focus on cell-cell communication, control of cell division, transcription, and epigenetic processes that determine cell fate, tissue, and organ development.

The objectives of this colloquium are to:

- Develop an in-depth understanding of current research approaches in plant developmental genetics.
- Develop critical thinking skills in reading primary science literature.
- Practice presentation skills.
- Learn to engage in scientific discussion with peers.

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. A. Mark Settles, settles@ufl.edu
MEETING TIME: Thursdays, 4:05 – 4:55 PM (period 9)
LOCATION: 1306 Fifield Hall (*except February 27 which will be held in 1301 Fifield; same period*)
CLASS SIZE LIMIT: 15 students
REGISTRATION: Departmentally controlled, request registration w/ Eliana Kampf at elianak@ufl.edu
CLASS SYLLABUS: [Click here](#)