

BIOL 4450-C
Senior Seminar

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Course summary: Biology students present seminars on recent research topics based on their own research experience.

BIOL 4450 is a 1-credit course. It is a co-requisite for BIOL 4590 (Research Project Lab), since students will present their research from BIOL 4590 in the Senior Seminar course. Students who have chosen to take BIOL 4690 (Senior Research Experience) or BIOL 4910 (Honors Research Thesis) instead of BIOL 4590 as part of their Senior Research Experience will also present their research from BIOL 4690/4910 in Senior Seminar. Therefore, in order to be enrolled in Senior Seminar, students must either be currently enrolled in BIOL 4590 OR BIOL 4699/4910, OR have already successfully completed BIOL 4699/4910 as their Undergraduate Research Experience.

BIOL 4450C meets Mondays from 5:05-6:25 pm in Cherry Emerson room 322. Since there is no textbook and this is a presentation and discussion-based course, attendance and active participation are required. Should you miss a class, you must provide documentation that your absence was excusable. Examples of excusable absences include illness, death in the family, accident, or conflict with another sanctioned professional activity (such as intercollegiate athletics or presentation at a scientific conference). If you know that you are going to be absent from a class session, you must let the instructor know ahead of time. Each unexcused absence will lower the final grade by 10%.

Office hours: By appointment. Please email me to set up a time. Please, use your Georgia Tech email account with the course number in the subject line. I will not answer emails from other accounts (hotmail, gmail, etc.). Students are also welcome to visit the instructor to talk about issues other than course material (e.g., career plans, research interests).

Evaluation:

Major oral presentation #1: research proposal	25%
Major oral presentation #2: research results	25%
Poster presentation	25%
Class participation	25%

Class participation will be judged by the extent to which each student participates in class discussions (by asking questions, answering questions, offering ideas, opinions, and critiques of student presentations). I expect to hear you ask a question or offer a comment nearly once every class.

Please see www.honor.gatech.edu for Georgia Tech's Academic Honor Code, which you are required to uphold.

Class calendar:

Week	Date	Topic (subject to revision)
1	Aug 18	Introduction to course
2	Aug 25	Class discussion
3	Sep 1	No class
4	Sep 8	Student oral presentations - research proposal: 15-min presentations
5	Sep 15	Student oral presentations - research proposal: 15-min presentations
6	Sep 22	Student oral presentations - research proposal: 15-min presentations
7	Sep 29	Student oral presentations - research proposal: 15-min presentations
8	Oct 6	Class discussion: How to write a manuscript and design an effective poster; hand in synopsis of evaluations from audience
9	Oct 13	Ethics discussion
10	Oct 20	Student oral presentations - research results: 20-min presentations
11	Oct 27	Student oral presentations - research results: 20-min presentations
12	Nov 3	Student oral presentations - research results: 20-min presentations
13	Nov 10	Student oral presentations - research results: 20-min presentations
14	Nov 17	Student oral presentations - research results: 20-min presentations
15	Nov 24	Review of presentations
16	Dec 1 4-6 pm	Poster presentations jointly with other sections of BIOL 4450