Spring 2-1-2024

**BCH 694.01: Biochemistry and Biophysics Seminar**

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Syllabus
BIOM 594: MBS Professional Seminar
BCH 694 Biochemistry and Biophysics Seminar

COURSE INFORMATION:
- CRN: BIOM 594 (70639); BCH 694 (33094)
- Credits: 1 (C/NC)
- Term: Spring 2024
- Day/Time: Usually Fridays 11AM (see below)
- Location: Usually Zoom or Skaggs 169 + Zoom option (this should be made clear on the seminar announcements.)
- Zoom link for MBS Seminars (Fridays, 11AM): https://umontana.zoom.us/j/99491535399
  - Note that UM Login authentication is required
  - When you click the link above, you may see a popup that reads “This meeting is for authorized participants only”.
  - Click “Sign in to Join”, then “Sign in with SSO”.
  - In box titled “your company domain” type “umontana.edu” or “umconnect.umt.edu” as appropriate for your UMOnline account. This should bring you to the UM NetID Login page.
  - If you are already logged in for Moodle or CyberBear or other UMOnline apps, the zoom link may bring you right to the meeting.

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION:
- Brent Ryckman
- Department: Biological Sciences
- Office: Interdisciplinary Science Building (ISB) 215
- Phone (Lab): 406-243-6948
- Email (preferred): brent.ryckman@mso.umt.edu
- Office hours: by appointment.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:
Students will:
- Expand their knowledge of current cellular, molecular and microbial biology research.
- Develop skills of critical analysis through writing summaries of attended seminars.
- Develop critical thinking skills through active participation and asking questions of seminar speakers.
- Extend their network of scientific contacts
- Use oral presentation format to explain their research to broad audiences.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
1. Attend AT LEAST 70% of the seminar meetings offered in the semester. Absences with will be excused on a case by case basis; please contact the instructor.
   a. Acceptable seminars
      i. Any of the “professional seminars” offered by the various units and departments related to Molecular and Biomedical Sciences (MBS) umbrella graduate program.
      ii. The MBS seminar series (Fridays 11AM) will serve as the “benchmark” for the number of seminars offered per semester used to calculate 70% as indicated above.
         1. MBS seminar calendar: https://www.umt.edu/grad/mbsprograms/events.php
         2. Other acceptable seminars on campus may be offered by (note: seminars listed the departments below may or may not be presented at MBS seminar Fridays
11AM forum).
   a. Dept. of Chem. and Biochem.;
      https://hs.umt.edu/chemistry/seminars/default.php
   b. Center for Translational Medicine;
      http://hs.umt.edu/_staging/ctm/default.php
   c. Dept of Biomed & Pharm Sci;
      https://health.umt.edu/biomed/seminars/default.php

b. Non-acceptable seminars
   i. Graduate student seminars/data club (Mondays at 12)
   ii. Workshop or research retreat talks (like at the CBSD retreat)
   iii. Graduate student thesis defense seminars (in the event that such a talk is scheduled in
        the MBS seminar Friday 11AM slot, this will not be included in total number of seminars
        offered for calculating the “70%” as indicated above.)

2. Document your seminar attendance by uploading a written summary to the provided link in the course
   Moodle page. *(note the modified instructions)*
   a. The name of the speaker
   b. Title of seminar
   c. Date and location of seminar
   d. *[new instructions]: Provide a concise, comprehensible and non-technical summary of the
      presentation. Briefly, describe the major questions and/or hypotheses, the general research
      methods/approaches and the major findings and conclusions. Make sure to provide any
      background necessary as context for understanding the major questions and conclusions. But
      avoid technical detail and jargon. This is not to be a laborious, in-depth essay, or detailed
      seminar notes. Rather this is more along the lines of casually telling a lab mate what they
      missed at seminar today. Recommended less than 300 words.

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**
The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with
disabilities, instructors, and the Office for Disability Equity (ODE). If you anticipate or experience barriers based
on disability, please contact the ODE at (406) 243-2243/Aber Hall - Room 116, ode@umontana.edu, or
visit www.umt.edu/disability for more information. Retroactive accommodation requests will not be honored, so
please, do not delay. As your instructor, I will work with you and the ODE to implement an effective
accommodation, and you are welcome to contact me privately if you wish. If you would like to request
reasonable accommodations, you are advised to provide your ODE verification letter to your instructor in the
first week of class so appropriate arrangements can be made. If you decide after the semester begins to
disclose your disability and request accommodations, you should provide documentation, if possible, at least
10 days before the upcoming assessment so I may prepare appropriately. It is the responsibility of students to
make sure they understand the types of modifications available to them before assessments.

**UM CULTURAL LEAVE POLICY**
Cultural or ceremonial leave allows excused absences for cultural, religious, and ceremonial purposes to meet
the student’s customs and traditions or to participate in related activities. To receive an authorized absence for
a cultural, religious or ceremonial event the student or their advisor (proxy) must submit a formal written
request to the instructor. This must include a brief description (with inclusive dates) of the cultural event or
ceremony and the importance of the student’s attendance or participation. Authorization for the absence is
subject to approval by the instructor. Appeals may be made to the Chair, Dean or Provost. The excused
absence or leave may not exceed five academic calendar days (not including weekends or holidays). Students
remain responsible for completion or make-up of assignments as defined in the syllabus, at the discretion of
the instructor.