

## BIOM 201 SEMINARS IN BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH – Fall, 2007

The purpose of this course is to explore the thinking process that went into the creation of current research, rather than simply to acquire facts about particular systems. Our goal is to introduce you to current biomedical research through critical evaluation of new science, as presented by experts in their respective fields at ongoing Seminar Series at UCSD. The course will consist of two sessions per week.

**The first session of each week:** This will be the seminar. Attendance is mandatory. The days and times vary; please pay attention to the syllabus handed out in class and posted on the course web site [http://cmm.ucsd.edu/Lab\\_Pages/hamilton/BIOM201.html](http://cmm.ucsd.edu/Lab_Pages/hamilton/BIOM201.html). Plan to arrive slightly early – no excuses if you come too late to get a seat.

**The second session of each week (2 hours):** We will meet every Friday for discussion. The first part is a “post-session” to evaluate what was learned in the prior seminar: the good the bad, the confusing. If you don’t have questions or can’t articulate them, then you won’t do well in this course. Speak up. The second part is a “pre-session” with an introduction to the topic of the next seminar, usually lead by an upper level BMS student. This will orient you to the topic, the methods likely to be relied on, and controversies that may exist. The goal is to help you appreciate the seminars and to develop your ability to evaluate critically the scientific questions, experiments and their interpretations. You are expected to speak up. You will find that the faculty will also be asking questions – because none of us know all the answers (if indeed the answers are yet known). In assessing each seminar presentation you should consider:

- 1) Why was this work done? What was the major question addressed?
- 2) What was the experimental approach?
- 3) What major claim(s) does the speaker make?
- 4) What do you feel are the major results that the speaker presented?
- 5) Did the data presented justify the claims that were made?
- 6) What major unanswered questions were raised by this work?
- 7) What experiments need to be done in order to answer such questions?

**Grade:** Students will receive a letter grade. The course grade will have two components:

- 1) Quality of day to day participation in the Pre-session discussion.
- 2) Attendance at the assigned seminar.

Performance will be assessed by the participating faculty. Yes, it is subjective. Ask questions. Speak up. We will have a regular session during finals week in lieu of an exam.

### Contact information for course faculty:

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