

BIO 186A: Cell and Molecular Biology Seminar Spring 2021

Instructor: Professor Kelly McDonald (pronouns: she/her)
Office: 320D Sequoia Hall (in the Center for Science and Math Success)
Student Hours: Tues. 11:30am-1:00pm; Wed. 1:00-2:30pm; or by appointment
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Faculty Website: <https://www.csus.edu/faculty/m/mcdonald/>

I welcome you to contact me outside of class and student hours. Email is the best way to reach me quickly. You can drop in anytime during student hours. If you are placed in a waiting room, it means I am with another student, and I will invite you in as soon as I can.

Class Times:

Tuesday 5:00 - 5:50pm

Zoom Link:

<https://csus.zoom.us/j/81335142307?pwd=ODh3NHJXOXBvZ2hYMHVDcVJpcFNSQT09>
Passcode: 653844

Prerequisite: BIO 10 or both BIO 1 and BIO 2

Course Description:

The goal of the course is to provide a glimpse into a variety of different biology careers and career paths, as well as highlight different avenues of research in the fields of Cell, Molecular and related fields of Biology. Each week we will have a different guest speaker presenting their story – academic preparation, career path, job responsibilities, original research and/or how they use their scientific background/training in their careers. I hope through this seminar you learn more about careers you may be interested in or discover entirely new career paths that you didn't know existed!

Grading:

This course is graded Credit/No Credit. To receive credit for the course, you need to attend at least 12 of the seminars. You will need to submit 11 written assignments summarizing the seminars you attended and attend one Zoom session with me to discuss the seminar in person (I will make sure this meeting fits your schedule). I provide you with some structure and questions to answer in your essays below. I really enjoy reading these reflections and hope you enjoy and benefit from writing them! I'm also looking forward to getting to know you better when we meet in person to discuss a seminar.

Attendance and Participation:

Attendance is important for this seminar. Please come prepared to learn from the guest speakers who are volunteering their time to engage with us, and please try to actively participate in the question/answer session. I ask that you attend the classes during the scheduled time (Tues. 5-5:50pm), but I understand that extenuating circumstances arise that can make this difficult on occasion. If you cannot attend class on a given week, please let me know. I will ask each speaker if I can record their presentations, but if there are

reasons why I can't (e.g., confidentiality), then there will be no way for you to make up that class period.

Speaker List:

I am actively recruiting speakers; therefore, the schedule may be incomplete at the beginning of the semester. I am working hard to include a very diverse group of scientists/professionals representing the biotechnology industry, healthcare professions, academia, and government agencies. You will also hear from several Sac State alums who are currently in graduate school and the Sac State Career Center, as they offer a range of services for current students and alumnus. All speakers will be announced on Canvas the week prior to their presentation, and I will post the speaker's name, career information, title of their talk, and a short biography (if available).

Written Assignments:

Your written assignments will need to be submitted to Canvas each week by the Friday (11:59pm) after the seminar. Please include the following in your essays:

1. Name of the speaker, job title of the speaker, title of the seminar.
2. One paragraph describing some of the main points of the seminar, question/answer session, and/or discussion period.
3. One paragraph describing your reactions to the seminar. This is meant to be a reflective paragraph, so you should use "I" and provide your opinions, thoughts, feelings, etc. You may use some of the following prompts to guide your reflections or you may discuss other thoughts:
 - a. What did you find most interesting or informative about the seminar?
 - b. How will you use what you learned going forward?
 - c. Did the speaker introduce a new issue/career or clarify one for you?
 - d. What was the most memorable part of the seminar for you?
 - e. What additional questions do you have about the career/research presented?

Class Environment:

It is my intention that students from all diverse backgrounds and perspectives have a voice, feel respected and heard, feel comfortable participating and are well-served by this course. I ask for your help in creating an atmosphere where the diversity that we all bring be viewed as a resource, strength and benefit to the class. I encourage you all to take an active part in class discussions with honest and respectful dialogue. I also ask you to:

1. Please be respectful of your peers and our guests by muting your audio and listening during presentations and when other students are asking questions or commenting. When asking questions, you may use the chat or your virtual (Zoom) hand to be recognized.
2. Please remove as many distractions as possible, so that you can give your full attention to the speaker and class discussion. I understand that this may be difficult during these times!
3. If you feel comfortable, and are able, I would appreciate you turning your cameras on at the beginning of class when I am introducing our speaker and at the end

during the question/answer session. I understand that internet speed and distractions from your environment may make this difficult, but if you can use your camera during these times, it will be more comfortable for our guest speaker.

4. Remember to be professional when communicating via email or Zoom. I will try to respond to emails within 24 hrs.
5. Let me know if there are ways I can improve the effectiveness of the course for you personally or for other students.

Disabilities:

Assistance will be provided to all individuals with a disability that affects their ability to succeed in the course. Please contact me as soon as possible, preferably in the first week, to arrange for reasonable accommodations.

Campus Resources:

Mental health concerns or other stressful life events (involving COVID-19, employment or housing issues, etc.) may interfere with your participation and performance. Sacramento State had many resources to help students succeed. Please see our Canvas Course for links to campus resources.

Add/Drop Policy:

Dropping during the first two weeks of class is through MySacState. **Dropping during weeks three through six requires a petition signed by the instructor and the Department chair at the discretion of the instructor. Dropping during weeks seven and twelve also requires the Dean's signature. Drops after the fourth week will result in a "W" on your transcript.** There is no such thing as an automatic drop. ***You are responsible for following up on the drop.*** Failure to do this could result in an assignment of "No Credit" for the class.