

BIO 603. Scientific Presentations
James Madison University
Fall 2004, Burruss 243A

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Course Description: A forum for students to present their research and/or teaching materials to their peers and receive constructive feedback on their progress. Presentations may take the form of informal "chalk talks", journal club presentations and/or formal presentations. This course is graded on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory (S/U) basis. May be repeated for up to 2 credits.

Course Objectives: This seminar will contribute to the development of your individual work projects, presentation styles and intellectual engagement in biological research and pedagogy. Specifically, you will:

1. Evaluate your progress in your research/pedagogy.
2. Gain experience in organizing, synthesizing, and presenting this information.
3. Perfect effective professional communications for an informed, but broad-based audience.
4. Develop as an active listener and discussion participant.

Course Expectations:

1. Presentations. Each enrolled student will make either two or three presentations (dependent on number enrolled). It is your choice of presentations, but it is suggested that thesis-track students make at least one chalk talk and one journal club presentation. Teaching track students are encouraged to present a journal club presentation on pedagogy in the sciences and to discuss their findings related to their teaching portfolio research. In addition, students may present "formal" practice talks related to their defense or teaching lectures. Prepare presentations that are approximately 45-50 minutes long. Sign ups will be made available during our first meeting.
2. Participation. All students will arrive appropriately prepared for each session. Active and constructive discussion is expected of all participants.
3. Journal Club Readings. Those presenting journal club readings are expected to bring enough copies of the article(s) to class the week before their journal club. All participants are expected to read the article(s) prior to the journal club.

Attendance: Attendance is mandatory. Contact either instructor within 2 days of a documented emergency (serious illness or death in the family).

Grading: 50%: Presentations, 50%: Active Participation.
Grades of Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory will be given.