

**WIDENER UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF BIOCHEMISTRY**

**BCH 301**

**Biochemistry Seminar III**

**Fall 2006**

**Topic: You are what you eat**

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**Office Hours:** Monday 10-12

Thursday 12-2

Friday 11-12

or by appointment

**Class meeting time and place:** Monday 1:00-2:50, Kirkbride 410 and as otherwise arranged; presentations will be given in Kirkbride 571

**Text and materials:** There is no required text; this is a scientific literature based course. You will be provided with the PDFs of articles from peer reviewed scientific journals for your News and Views assignment and your General Review assignment. You should be familiar with Widener's Interlibrary Loan program as it will be necessary to request additional articles to complete your coursework. Plan to prepare in advance for the time necessary to request and review requested articles.

**Objectives:** This is an upper division seminar course that emphasizes journal club style presentations and offers training in the evaluation, interpretation and communication of the biochemical literature. Your progress will be assessed during class discussions, oral presentations and written summaries. At the end of this course, you should be familiar with some of the current problems addressed by biochemical research and demonstrate an understanding of their real world applications. Additionally, you should be able to thoughtfully critique the scientific literature and effectively communicate your knowledge in both written and oral formats.

**Office hours:** Hours are listed above although you are welcome to stop by at any time with any and all questions. I can also be reached by email or phone to answer questions or arrange additional meeting times that are more convenient for you.

**Class communications:** Announcements, information and certain course materials will be posted on the Campus Cruiser course web site. Additionally, email will be sent to your Campus Cruiser account; forward your messages to the account that you use most often.

**Attendance: Attendance is required.** Whether working as an individual or in a group, your participation and input are essential to your learning and that of the class. It is not possible to make up work. If you must miss a class, notify me in advance as soon as possible because there is flexibility with the scheduling of course meeting times.

**Academic fraud:** The Science Division and the Biochemistry Department strictly enforce the University's policy on cheating and other forms of academic fraud. You will **never** let any one else do the work for you and **never** plagiarize. You must acknowledge all your sources and give appropriate credit to any person that assists you with a journal article. Violate these policies and you fail the course.

**Grading and requirements:** The course will be graded on the +/- system and weighted as listed below. Please note that +/- adjustments will be made at my discretion.

**Writing Assignments**

News and Views	20%	<b>A 90-100%</b>
General Review rough draft	10%	<b>B 80-89%</b>
General Review final draft	15%	<b>C 70-79%</b>

**Oral Journal Club Presentations**

Presentation 1	20%	<b>D 60-69%</b>
Presentation 2	20%	<b>F &lt;60%</b>

**In class Discussions**

10%

**Peer evaluations**

5%

**Total 100%**

**Schedule:** Instructor reserves the right to modify the schedule. You will be notified in class, by email or on Campus Cruiser of any changes.

<b>M</b>	<b>Sept 11</b>	<b>No class, ACS meeting</b>
<b>M</b>	<b>18</b>	Organizational meeting; introduce News & Views; receive News and Views papers; begin literature research
<b>M</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>Select News and Views paper;</b> continue literature research
<b>M</b>	<b>Oct 2</b>	Discuss literature research for News and Views
<b>M</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>News and Views due;</b> prepare for presentations
<b>M</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>Journal Club Presentation 1;</b> receive paper for General Review
<b>Thurs</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>Peer evaluations due</b>
<b>M</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>No class, Fall Break</b>
<b>M</b>	<b>30</b>	Start literature research for General Review
<b>M</b>	<b>Nov 6</b>	Discuss literature research for General Review
<b>M</b>	<b>13</b>	Discuss literature research for General Review
<b>M</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>Rough draft of General Review due;</b> prepare for presentations
<b>M</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>Journal Club Presentation 2;</b> introduce controversy in the literature
<b>Thurs</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>Peer evaluations due</b>
<b>M</b>	<b>Dec 4</b>	<b>Final draft of General Review due;</b> discuss General Review and controversy in the literature
<b>M</b>	<b>11</b>	Discuss General Review, controversy in the literature and course