

Bio 16 (2009) Schedule

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Tuesday 4:30 - 5:45
 L+ Tues block

			Assignment
1	1/20	Introduction and ethics case studies	Read PR chapters 1-2 for 1/27
2	1/27	Continue ethics issues // Post Comments on P.R. Chap 1 & 2	PR chap 3 & 4 for 2/10
3	2/3	Seminar 1: Dr. David Cochrane (Biology)	Read Paper 1
4	2/10	Post comments re PR chapter 3 & 4 Class Discussion of paper #1	Read Paper 2 for 2/24 discussion
5	2/17	Seminar 2: Dr. Mitch McVey (Biology) Assignment Research Paper 2	
6	2/24	Discussion of Research paper 2	Read PR chap 5 & 6 for 3/10
7	3/3	Seminar 3 : Dr. Kelly McLaughlin (Biology)	Research paper 3
8	3/10	Post comments re PR Chap 5 & 6 Discuss Research Paper 3	
		Spring break	Read PR chapters 7-8
9	3/24	Post comments re chapters 7 – 8 in PR / Discussion / Q & A re course and career issues	
10	3/31	Seminar 4: Dr. Michael Levin (Biology)	
11	4/7	Seminar 5: Dr. Donna Slonim (Computer Science)	work on poster presentations
12	4/14	Poster Presentations	
13	4/21	Wrap up	

My goals for this course are to:

- 1) Give you a chance to consider and discuss some interesting topics in biology free from the pressure of exams and the anonymity of the large lecture course. Our focus this semester will be on the biology and health effects of parasitic organisms, but we start our semester by considering some issues in ethics.
- 2) Introduce you to a variety of research projects, to the people who are doing this work and how they came to be interested in their subjects.
- 3) Teach you some basic professional skills. (e.g. How to read research papers in biology). Finally, you will develop your presentation skills by working in a group to prepare a poster on the ecology / biology / social aspects / health challenges of your favorite parasitic disease.

Because this course is P/F and only meets 13 times during the semester, to receive a passing grade you must complete all assignments, have no unexcused absences and be prepared to take part in classroom discussions. Most of our discussion of Parasite Rex will take place via the Discussion Board on the BlackBoard site. You will be expected to post comments/questions on three of the four PR assignments.

Text: Parasite Rex by Carl Zimmer (publisher Simon & Schuster) paperback

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Parasite Rex is a fascinating book that discusses the evolution and ecology of parasites. Although parasitic species tend to be neglected in most biology courses if you consider that every free-living species appears to have at least one (and often many) parasitic species that depend on it for life, parasites may actually outnumber non-parasitic species. In addition, as Zimmer makes clear in his later chapters, it is now believed that parasites play an important role in the evolution of their host species and in the dynamics of some ecosystems.

Carl Zimmer has an ongoing web site on which he remarks about parasites

http://scienceblogs.com/loom/the_parasite_files/

(has links to U-Tube videos of emerald wasp and cockroaches)

Other popular books on parasites

The Woman with a Worm in Her Head by Pamela Nagami

New Guinea Tapeworms and Jewish Grandmothers by Robert Desowitz. Another interesting book that discusses how parasites have affected human civilizations (1981)

Federal bodysnatchers and the New Guinea virus : people, parasites, politics by Robert S. Desowitz. (2002)