

**University of the Philippines Manila
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY**

**Biology 196
Undergraduate Seminar**

A. Course Catalogue Description

1. Course Code: Biology 196
2. Course Title: Undergraduate Seminar
3. Course Description: Survey of current biological literature
4. Prerequisite: Senior standing, i.e., must have passed 122 academic units under the BS Biology Program including the core courses
5. Semester Offered: 1st and 2nd semesters
6. Course Credit: 1unit
7. Number of Hours: 1 /week
8. Meeting Type: In-person
9. Course Goals: To develop students' readiness in presenting papers in conferences by equipping them with the needed skills such as organizing and facilitating a seminar, and preparing and presenting a seminar paper.

B. Course Outline

1. Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

At the end of the semester, students shall be able to:

- CLO1. Facilitate and organize a seminar;
- CLO2. Deliver a seminar presentation;
- CLO3. Engage in a seminar discussion; and
- CLO4. Critique a seminar presentation.

2. Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) Met by the Course

- A. Develop a mindset for lifelong learning in pursuit of excellence with a global perspective
- B. Demonstrate adaptability, professionalism, and ethical behavior in the workplace
- C. Foster social and environmental responsibility to build a healthy community
- D. Demonstrate knowledge and comprehension in the core areas of biology at varying scales
- E. Apply critical, analytical, integrative, and creative thinking to biological problems
- F. Apply the scientific method to design and ethically conduct biological research
- G. Effectively communicate biological ideas in both written and oral form, and through the use of various media

Course Learning Outcomes	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Facilitate and organize a seminar							
Deliver a seminar presentation							
Engage in a seminar discussion							
Critique a seminar presentation							

3. Course Content

Lecture topic: Delivering an effective seminar presentation

4. Course Coverage (16 weeks)

Week	Learning Outcomes	Topic	Essential Questions	Suggested Teaching and Learning Activities	Assessment Tools	Learning Resources	Complementary Activities
1-3	<p>1. Explain the aim of a seminar presentation</p> <p>1. Describe the parts of a seminar presentation</p> <p>2. List effective ways of delivering a presentation</p>	Delivering a presentation	<p>What is a seminar presentation?</p> <p>What are the parts of a seminar presentation?</p> <p>What makes an effective oral presentation?</p>	<p>Lecture</p> <p>Group discussion</p> <p>Submission of topic outline</p>	<p>Non-graded assignment: Evaluate an assigned talk on biology.</p> <p>Feedback on outline</p>	<p>Guidelines on seminar presentation. Rutgers Food Science.</p> <p>Tips for giving a talk. Learning Skills Centre. University of Canterbury</p>	Attend/ watch a talk on biology
4-10	1. Make a presentation	NA	NA	Create a slide deck for a 15-minute presentation	Feedback on slide deck	NA	NA
11-16	<p>1. Deliver an effective seminar presentation</p> <p>2. Facilitate and organize a seminar</p> <p>3. Critique a seminar presentation</p> <p>4. Engage in a seminar discussion</p>	NA	NA	<p>A seminar presentation event</p> <p>Feedback</p>	Rubrics for seminar presentation, facilitation, critique, and engagement	NA	NA

5. Course Requirements:

- Seminar presentation 50%
- Critique 20%
- Organization and facilitation of a seminar 15%
- Active participation 10%
- Poster 5%

6. Guidelines

- a. Students must submit an outline of the presentation for approval by the instructor.
- b. Active participation includes asking questions to stimulate discussion. Students are expected to ask relevant questions after the presentation and be engaged in a discussion.
- c. Each student must perform the role of a speaker, facilitator, and reactor. A sample roster is provided in the table below. The following are the guidelines for each role:
 - Speaker
 - The speaker should be presentable and deliver the talk in 15 minutes.
 - Content organization of the talk may vary but the following aspects are anticipated from each presentation: (1) Title, (2) Introduction, (3) Body, and (4) Conclusion.
 - Copyright owners of elements like ideas, concepts, figures, images, videos, etc. should be properly cited.
 - A question and answer session may follow each presentation.
 - Facilitator
 - The role includes the following: 1] promoting the seminar such as dissemination of a publicity material on various platforms including social media at least a week prior to the schedule, 2] performing the tasks of the emcee/moderator, and 3] managing the time.
 - The seminar should be open to all interested individuals so any platform that would help increase accessibility of the seminar, such as social media, is encouraged.
 - Reactor
 - The reactor should deliver a 2–3-minute critique on the assigned seminar presentation. Alternatively, the reactor may submit a written critique. The critique includes feedback on the content and the delivery of the presentation.

Roster for weeks 11-15

Week	Speaker	Facilitator	Reactor
5	1	7	10
5	2	6	9
6	3	5	8
6	4	10	7
7	5	11	1
7	6	8	2
8	7	1	11
8	8	2	4
9	9	3	5
9	10	9	6
10	11	4	3

7. Course Policies

a. The UPM-Department of Biology Grade Point System is given below.

Percentage	Grade point equivalence
93–100	1.00 (Highest Passing Grade)
90–92	1.25
87–89	1.50
84–86	1.75
80–83	2.00
75–79	2.25
70–74	2.50
65–69	2.75
60–64	3.00 (Lowest Passing Grade)
54–59	4.00 (Conditional failure)
< 54	5.00 (Fail)

- b. To pass, the student must meet all the following:
- Completion of all the course requirements.
 - A final grade of at least 3.0.
- c. The following non-numerical grades are given to students accordingly:
- DRP- students who never turned in in any course requirements, never participated in class activities nor communicated with the instructor, and students who applied to drop out of the class.
 - INC- student with incomplete requirements but has a passing class standing. A student who has obtained an INC and has a passing class standing must complete the requirements within one academic year to replace the INC with a numerical grade. Otherwise, the student must re-enroll the course.
- d. Speakers and facilitators who do not show up during the event will receive a zero score. Make up activities are only allowed for students who have a valid excuse for missing the activity.
- e. A student who obtained a grade of 4.0 must take a removal exam or an equivalent activity within one academic year. Otherwise, the grade of 4.0 will be converted to a failing grade of 5.0. A student who passes the removal exam will get a grade of 3.0.

f. Academic integrity

- Students must remember this honor code by heart:

As a student of the University of the Philippines. I pledge to act ethically and uphold the value of honor and excellence. I understand that suspected misconduct on given assignments/examinations will be reported to the Appropriate office and if established, will result in disciplinary action in accordance with University rules, policies, and procedures. I may work with others only to the extent allowed by the Instructor.

- All students are expected to maintain academic integrity at all times. This course has a zero-tolerance policy for intellectual dishonesty such as plagiarism. Intellectual dishonesty is "any fraudulent act performed by a student to achieve an academic advantage for oneself or others" (Office of the Student Regent MEMO NO. 2012-009). Plagiarism is the "use of another person's ideas, writings, inventions, and similar intellectual products as one's own without knowledge, consent, and/or accreditation" (Office of the Student Regent MEMO NO. 2012-009).

- The Department of Biology's rules on scholastic integrity will be strictly enforced. If compelling evidence shows that a student has committed plagiarism, the student will be given a grade of 5.0 in the course. The student cannot avoid getting a grade of 5.0 by dropping the course. A student may appeal to the Department Chair who will form a committee to investigate and decide on the case. The decision of the committee will be final and executory.
- Furthermore, a student who has committed intellectual dishonesty will face any disciplinary action that might be imposed by the university authorities. For detailed information, refer to the [University of the Philippines Code of Student Conduct](#) (Office of the Student Regent MEMO NO. 2012-009).
- Please report any act of academic dishonesty.

8. References

- a. Guidelines on seminar presentation. Rutgers Food Science. <https://foodsci.rutgers.edu/Graduate/GSA/pdf/SeminarGuidelines.pdf>. [accessed 13 July 2023]
- b. Tips for giving a talk. Learning Skills Centre. University of Canterbury. <http://www.lps.canterbury.ac.nz/lsc/documents/handouts/Giving%200a%20Talk%20handout%2027-1-14.pdf>. [accessed 13 July 2023]

Prepared by JJA0 in July 2023