

MB499
Special Topics: Professional Skills in Microbiology
Fall 2007: Thursday 12:00-1:50 PM; Nash 404

Instructor: Dr. J.E. Trempey

Nash 420

7374441

Course Objectives:

1. Learn about the career opportunities in the field of microbiology.
2. Learn how to successfully compete for jobs in the various microbiology fields.
3. Develop strategies necessary for employment success.
4. Develop familiarity with professional skills necessary to initiate and sustain a career in microbiology.

Learning Resources: None required. Learning resources will be provided when available

Prereq (enforced): Junior/Senior standing

University and Departmental Policies:

Please note: "Students with documented disabilities who may need accommodations, who have any emergency medical information the instructor should know, or who need special arrangements in the event of evacuation, should make an appointment with the instructor as early as possible, no later than the first week of the term. In order to arrange alternative testing, the student should make the request at least one week in advance of the test. Students seeking accommodations should be registered with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities."

Please note: The Department of Microbiology follows the university rules on civility and honesty. These can be found at osu.orst.edu/instruct/cssa556/CIVHON556.

Cheating or plagiarism by students is subject to the disciplinary process outlined in the Student Conduct Regulations. Students are expected to be honest and ethical in their academic work. Academic dishonesty is defined as an intentional act of deception in one of the following areas:

- * cheating- use or attempted use of unauthorized materials, information or study aids
- * fabrication- falsification or invention of any information
- * assisting- helping another commit an act of academic dishonesty
- * tampering- altering or interfering with evaluation instruments and documents
- * plagiarism- representing the words or ideas of another person as one's own

Behaviors disruptive to the learning environment will not be tolerated and will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for disciplinary action.

"The goal of Oregon State University is to provide students with the knowledge, skill and wisdom they need to contribute to society. Our rules are formulated to guarantee each student's freedom to learn and to protect the fundamental rights of others. People must treat each other with dignity and respect in order for scholarship to thrive. Behaviors that are disruptive to teaching and learning will not be tolerated, and will be referred to the Student Conduct Program for disciplinary action. Behaviors that create a hostile, offensive or intimidating environment based on gender, race, ethnicity, color, religion, age, disability, marital status or sexual orientation will be referred to the Affirmative Action Office."

Course Policies:

This course is being offered as a service to you---to assist you with the transition out of college and in to a successful career in microbiology or related professions. In order to receive maximum benefit offered by this course, there will be certain policies in place. To achieve a "passing" grade in this P/N

course you will be expected to attend class and complete the assignments on time. Greater than one class miss, failure to stay for the entire class period, failure to participate in in-class activities, and or failure to complete assignments on time will result in a no-pass (N) grade. Late work will not be accepted. Makeup work will not be an option given the advanced warning of assignment due dates (see below).

Please note: Schedule below is subject to slight changes due to availability of guest speakers

Course Format

Sept. 27

Exploring the Job Market: OSU's Career Services

Assignment#1: due Oct. 4: Find **TWO** advertised job positions (from two different companies) and **ONE** internship position or **ONE** professional school program (graduate, medical, dental) that you would be qualified to apply for. In writing, summarize the description of each job/internship/professional school, cite the source for the job/internship/professional school advertisement (i.e. web site, newspaper) and explain why you are qualified. Attach a copy of the job description.

Assignment #2: due Oct. 4: Find three recent (2004-present) Microbiology journal articles that would be appropriate for use in a powerpoint presentation. Submit the journal title, authors, journal volume, page numbers and abstract for each article on a piece of paper and hand in to Dr. Trempy. Acceptable journals for this assignment: Nature, Science, PNAS, Cell, J. of Bacteriology, Infection and Immunity, J. of Virology, Molecular Microbiology, J. Applied and Environmental Microbiology

Oct. 4

Assignment #1: DUE

Assignment #2: DUE

Assignment #3: due Nov. 8th, BEFORE CLASS

Read and analyze the journal article assigned to your group (consisting of 3 students per group). Prepare a presentation of your analysis using nine Powerpoint slides. Each student will be responsible for preparing and presenting three slides. Suggested format:

Background	one slide
Previous work	one slide
Significance and Hypothesis tested	one slide
Experimental Approaches used	two slides
Results/Controls used	three slides
Conclusions/ Future Plans	one slide

Oct. 11

Resume and Cover Letter Preparation: OSU's Career Services

Assignment #4: due Oct. 18: Interview two life sciences professionals (other than Dr. Trempy or Dr. Bruslind) about their career and write a one page summary of each interview.

Assignment #5: due Nov. 1: Select one job or one professional school to apply to from the jobs/internships/professional school you identified in assignment #1: Prepare, in writing, a first draft of a resume, cover letter and statement of interest, a portfolio illustrating your professional skills and highlighting your accomplishments, and a list of verifiable personal references. Use examples found at Web sites described in handouts.

Oct. 18	Transferable Skills Assignment #4: DUE Work on Presentations
Oct. 25	Patents and establishment of intellectual properties Work on Presentations
Nov. 1	Job Interviews: The nuts and bolts: OSU's Career Services Assignment #5: DUE Work on Presentations
Nov. 8	Assignment #3 DUE: Presentations
Nov. 15	Presentations
Nov. 29	Ethics and Professionalism/ Pot luck lunch

NO FINAL EXAM

Learner Outcomes:

Students will:

1. Acquire an understanding of the professional opportunities available in microbiology:
2. Practice professional skills relevant to the microbiology profession.
3. Create a microbiology specific application packet and corresponding portfolio.
4. Recognize and contrast/compare acceptable professional practices.
5. Analyze research data and create a presentation to communicate this analysis.

Learner Expectations (to achieve a pass instead of a no-pass grade):

1. Attend class (on time) and stay the entire class period. More than one miss, failure to stay the entire class period and or failure to complete assignments on time will result in a no-pass grade.
2. Complete assignments and hand in assignments at the beginning of class period on the day they are due.
3. Participate in learning activities . If you don't understand something, ask.
4. Using cell phones, texting messages, doing homework for other courses, reading newspapers or other material unrelated to this course's content, etc is absolutely prohibited during class.