

## Current Topics in Toxicology ENVH591

### ENVH 591 Autumn quarter

**Instructors:** Zhengui Xia, Professor  
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**Time:** Thu 1:30-3:10  
**Location:** South Campus Center, Rm 348

**Office Hours:** By arrangement

**Grading:** 2 Credits, graded

**Course Description:** Critical reading, presentation, and writing up the critique of selected basic and research publications on Toxicology and related Health Science fields. Constructive feedbacks will be provided on both presentations and written critiques.

The readings will reflect a variety of study types, focusing on major current developments in Toxicology and Health Sciences.

The first class will be an introduction to the field, and involve instruction on critical reading of scientific papers, how to prepare a presentation, style of presentation, and key elements of good scientific writing. Students will then read and critically review selected articles every week. Each student is expected to present 2 times, and provide written critiques of the chosen research articles 2 times. Students are also expected to participate in group-discussions and provide constructive comments and feedbacks on fellow students' presentations and written critiques.

**Learning Objectives:** At the end of this course, the student will be able to

- 1) demonstrate skills in reading scientific literature in the field of Toxicology and related Health Sciences
- 2) demonstrate skills to critique scientific literature in the field of Toxicology and related Health Sciences
- 3) demonstrate skills to integrate different research areas in the field of Toxicology and related Health Sciences
- 4) demonstrate critical thinking skills about both the content of scientific readings and the larger context in which those readings exist.
- 5) demonstrate an ability to effectively deliver an oral and electronic (e.g. power point) summary of toxicology research articles understand the principles of original writing and how to avoid plagiarism
- 6) demonstrate an ability to write critical review of research articles in the field of Toxicology and related Health Sciences
- 7) demonstrate ability to participate in small group discussions.
- 8) demonstrate skills in critiquing peer presentations and fellow students' written critiques in a constructive way
- 9) Understand and evaluate professional journal articles in the toxicological sciences

## Current Topics in Toxicology (ENVH 591)

10) Define the factors underlying high quality toxicology research articles

### Course Requirements:

- 1) Attend class sessions every week.
- 2) Read and critique the selected readings before assigned class sessions.
- 3) Participate in class discussions.
- 4) Presentation of research articles 1-2 times.
- 5) Provide written critique for 2 or 1 selected research articles, so the total is 3 for combined presentation and written critique
- 6) Provide constructive feedback for fellow students on their presentations

### Grading:

	<u>Points</u>	
Presentation of research articles (1-2 x),	30 ppt ea.	} 90 ppt
Written critique of research articles (2-1 x)	30 ppt ea.	
Participating class discussion:	10	
Total	100	

Grading will be based on student peer scoring (40%) and Instructor's scoring (60%). For example, for the research article presentation, the best score is 30 points for each presentation; of which instructor can give a score of 0-18 (18 being the best) and peer will give a score of 0-12 (12 being the best).

**Readings:** No required text.  
Articles will be distributed by instructors.

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**Topic for this quarter: Heavy metal toxicity**

**ENVH 591 Presenters**

Date	Topic/Presenter
25-Sep	Zhengui Xia
2-Oct	Hao Wang
9-Oct	Megan Cartwright
16-Oct	Ryan Babadi
23-Oct	Tyler Nicholas
30-Oct	Josi Herron/Carly Strecker
6-Nov	Rachel Chang
13-Nov	Marissa Smith & Josi Herron
20-Nov	Britt Weldon & Marissa Smith
4-Dec	Rachel Chang

**Please keep your presentation to 40 min max. on days with single presenter, or 30 min on days with 2 presenters**

**Please send me your articles to be presented at least 1 week in advance.**

**Accommodations:** If you want to request academic accommodations due to a disability, please contact Disabled Student Services, 448 Schmitz, 543-8925 (Voice/TTY). If you have a letter from Disabled Student Services indicating you have a disability that requires academic accommodations, please present the letter to the instructors so we can discuss the accommodations you might need for class.