Instructors: Zhengui Xia, Professor
Office: HSB 561A
Phone: 616-9433
Email: zxia@u.washington.edu

Time: Thu 1:30-3:10
Location: HSB, T360+A and F561A (Xia office)

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 selected articles, and provide written critiques of the chosen research articles. 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
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) Actively participate in classroom discussions
4) Formal presentation of research articles 2x.
5) Informal presentation of research articles 3x.
6) Provide constructive feedback for fellow students on their presentations

Grading:
- Formal Presentations: 30 x 2=60
- Informal Presentations: 30
- Class discussion: 10
- Total: 100

Grading on research article presentation will be based on student peer scoring (40%; e.g. a score of 0-12 (12 being the best)) and instructor’s scoring (60%; e.g. a score of 0-18 (18 being the best)).

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

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

Access and Accommodations
Your experience in this class is important to me. If you have already established accommodations with Disability Resources for Students (DRS), please communicate your approved accommodations to me at your earliest convenience so we can discuss your needs in this course.

If you have not yet established services through DRS, but have a temporary health condition or permanent disability that requires accommodations (conditions include but are not limited to mental health, attention-related, learning, vision, hearing, physical or health impacts), you are welcome to contact DRS at 206-543-8924 or uwdrs@uw.edu or disability.uw.edu. DRS offers resources and coordinates reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities and/or temporary health conditions. Reasonable accommodations are established through an interactive process between you, your instructor(s) and DRS. It is the policy and practice of the University of Washington to create inclusive and accessible learning environments consistent with federal and state law.

Religious Accommodations
Washington state law requires that UW develop a policy for accommodation of student absences or significant hardship due to reasons of faith or conscience, or for organized religious activities. The UW’s policy, including more information about how to request
an accommodation, is available at Religious Accommodations Policy. Accommodations must be requested within the first two weeks of this course using the Religious Accommodations Request form.