BINF704 Spring 2019

INSTRUCTOR - Jeff Solka Ph.D., jsolka@gmu.edu, 540-809-9799

OFFICE HOURS – By appointment.  
  
PLACE AND TIME - Course fully asynchronous except for an initial kickoff meeting online 1/22/19 at 5:30 pm. Please monitor the course Blackboard page for connection instructions for this meeting.

PURPOSE of the COURSE  
This course serves to train students in understanding scientific presentations and publications while simultaneously giving them a rudimentary capability to craft a colloquium style presentation based on a journal article.  
  
EXPECTATIONS - Students are expected to record a presentation on a journal paper as chosen by them, watch 4 online presentations from outside speakers, and answer quizzes on 2 of them and provide write-ups on 2 of them. Ideally the paper presented should be related to the student's ongoing research and the student is free to present on ongoing research. Alternatively students can present on a paper of the professor's choosing. **Ideally students will present in teams of 2 where each team will have 45 minutes to present. These presentations will have the audio recorded using this feature in Microsoft PowerPoint.** **Students will be required to speak a professor provided code word during their presentation. Student teams will be assigned by the professor.** This code word will be used to validate that their fellow students watched the presentations when they score them. In addition students are expected to submit 2 in-depth write-ups, 7-10 pages 14pt single spaced, on external speaker presentations. Write-ups should minimally provide a summarization of the talk in the student's own words. Any insights into the research discussed in the talk should be presented within the body of the write-up. One of the writeups and quizzes will be due by 6:00 pm March 19, 2019 and one quiz and one writeup will be due by by 6:00 pm April 30, 2019. Finally, students are expected to evaluate each of the student presentations on a 100 point scale as follows  
  
33 pts - Presentation Content  
33pts - Organization of the Talk  
34 pts - Student's Understanding of Material

Roughly the first half of the evaluations will be due by 6:0 pm March 19,2019 with the remainder due by 6:00 pm April 30,2019.

**When one turns in the grade for a talk via Blackboard they are also expected to submit a code word which is embedded in the audio track of the talk.** All course material will be submitted via Blackboard. Students are expected to use the course Blackboard Multimedia manager to select their presentations after submitting them as an assignment. Presentation partners will be selected by the processor.  
  
GRADING - Students grades will be calculated in the following manner.

20% Quiz Grades

20% Presentation Scoring  
30% Course Presentation  
30% Presentation Write-ups  
  
Grading will be on the following scale. 93-100  (A), 90-92 (A-), 87-89 (B+), 83-86 (B), 80-82(B-), less than 80 (C). Student averages will be rounded to the closest integer to determine final letter grades.

The four external speaker talks will be listed on Blackboard at the kickoff meeting of the course.

There is no final exam for the course, but the students are encouraged to attend semester end student research presentations if conducted by the department.