

**Purposes:**

The main goal of this course is to strengthen the students' ability to think critically, formulate and ask questions of seminar speakers, and appreciate investigative strategies in areas *not directly related to* the graduate students' programs of research.

A secondary course goal is to help students develop successful presentation styles of their own by observing a variety of seminar styles presented by established professional scientists.

A third course goal is to encourage professional behavior. This includes paying close attention to the presentation and demonstrating a polite, respectful demeanor at all times. Reading, talking, and working with a computer or other digital device during a seminar is considered to be rude behavior and is discouraged in the strongest possible terms.

**Student Questions:**

Students are encouraged to ask questions of the speaker at the end of the seminar. To facilitate development of the ability to ask good questions, students are required to articulate a question directly related to the seminar on the back of the attendance slip for each seminar. These questions will be evaluated by the course coordinator, and for questions that reflect little thought or effort, the student will be required to prepare make-up work for the seminar. Please bear in mind that the purpose of requiring students to formulate questions is to cultivate students' abilities to think critically, particularly in areas not directly related to their immediate programs of research.

**Absences & Make-Up Work:**

Students are expected to attend every seminar to capture the most benefit possible from the considerable investment of time and resources devoted to this program. Although no permission or make-up work is required for a single absence, for each additional absence for any reason, students will be required to submit either: 1) a one-page, single-spaced summary of recent work published by the seminar speaker whose presentation was missed; or 2) proof of attendance at a scientific conference, meeting, or approved alternate seminar. If you present at a scientific conference and represent Loma Linda University, that qualifies as an approved alternate seminar. All verifications of attending a conference needed to be turned in **PRIOR** to missing a seminar. A schedule of approved alternate seminars can be obtained from the course administrator (Jacqueline Brower). This absence policy is similar to that for any other content-based class and is implemented to help meet the main goals of the course, as stated above.

**Speaker Invitation:**

To broaden the range of speakers invited to present their work in the Thursday afternoon Basic Science Seminar series, all basic science disciplines (Anatomy, Biochemistry, Microbiology, Pharmacology, and Physiology) will be encouraged to invite no less than one speaker per quarter. Ideally, the invited speakers will all present work that is highly relevant to the research interests of the hosting department. Students are encouraged to work with their mentors to help recommend and host seminar speakers.