

BISP 170, Spring Quarter, 2017

Bioscholars Seminar: "Cancer" SYLLABUS

Instructor: Dr. Kathleen French

Seminar meetings

Mon 4:00--6:00 PM

York Hall 3010

General course description: *2 units, letter grade (or P/NP).* Each year, this student-organized seminar course considers several aspects of a current topic in biology. This year we'll consider "Cancer:" what this constellation of diseases is and some current (or ancient or future) therapeutic approaches that may become widely used. We'll also explore the process by which results obtained in the basic sciences are translated into safe and effective clinical practice, including the constraints that must be satisfied before any procedure, drug, or device can legally and ethically be used to treat patients. Speakers will also discuss their own research.

Contacting your instructor: Email: kfrench@ucsd.edu Office: Pacific Hall 3123B

Schedule for Spring Quarter, 2017

Week	Date	Speaker	Topic
1	April 3	Dr. Kathleen French (Biological Sciences/Neurobiology)	An introduction to BISP 170; How to successfully read papers from the primary research literature
2	April 10	Dr. Jean Wang (UCSD Med/Medicine)	What is cancer?
3	April 17	Dr. Ezra Cohen (UCSD Med/Medicine)	This generation will cure cancer—lunacy or reality?
4	April 24	Dr. Razelle Kurzrock (UCSD Med/Medicine)	The pillars of precision cancer medicine: Genomics and immunotherapy
5	May 1	Dr. John Pierce (UCSD Med/Family Medicine & Public Health)	Epidemiology of cancer
6	May 8	Dr. Arnold Gass (UCSD Med/Medicine)	The ethics of treating cancer and using cancer patients in research
7	May 15	Dr. Kathy French	Finding and evaluating papers in the research literature
8	May 22	Students in the class	Brief descriptions of final papers
9	May 29	MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY	

PAPERS ARE DUE BY 5 P.M. ON MONDAY, JUNE 5. TURN THEM IN AT DR. KATHY FRENCH'S OFFICE (Pacific Hall 3123B).

Course Assignments/Grading

Students will earn a letter grade (or a grade of P/NP) in the course based on the following scheme:

1. **Attendance (25%)**

For 8 weeks, the class will meet weekly for approximately 2 hours. Each student can miss **one** session with no penalty, but more than one absence will seriously degrade the course experience and lower the grade. **The official record of attendance is a sign-in sheet that will be available at every class meeting. Be SURE to sign in every week.**

2. **Readings and discussion questions (25%)**

Each speaker will choose approximately two papers from the primary research literature, and these papers are the assignment for that week. Each assignment will be sent in an e-mail message to you that will include the papers in PDF format. You'll receive this message at least one week before the speaker talks to us, so be sure to look for it.. **(Please notice!! There is no TED site for this course. All of our course communication will take place via e-mail, so please keep your e-mail box available.)**

3. Every student in the class is expected to have read the assigned papers before the associated class session. To facilitate the post-lecture discussion, each student will write and submit TWO interesting questions that they would like to discuss in class. **Questions should be sent to Dr. Kathy French (kfrench@ucsd.edu), and they will be due by 6 p.m. on the Sunday before each class meeting (that is, the evening just before the class meets).** Each student should then be prepared to ask their questions if they are called on during the discussion period.

4. **Final paper (50%)**

Each student will write a paper that elaborates on a topic of his or her choice: Topics should have been introduced or covered by one of the speakers during the course. The papers must be properly formatted AND must cite at least ONE source from the primary research literature that extends beyond the reading assignment for that topic. This paper-- and any others that are cited, must be from the peer-reviewed scientific literature (not from a Website like WebMD). **The paper must be 3 pages long, with 1-inch margins, written in 12-pt Times New Roman or 11-pt Arial, and double-spaced. A hard copy of the paper must be turned in by 5 p.m. on Friday, May 27, to Dr. Kathy French or to her office (Pacific Hall 3123B). If there's no one in my office, slide your paper under my office door. B**

Learning Goals

We expect that this course will:

develop students' skills in discussing important topics in medicine, especially their broader social and ethical implications

- foster in students the oral and written skills that contribute to successful scientific communication
- promote students' development as scientifically trained individuals who are also sensitive to the social, political, cultural, and ethical context of scientific research
- educate students about the continuing contributions of scientists at UCSD and other local institutions to research that addresses the medical and ethical challenges of today