
COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to convey the current state of the stem cell field. Through careful reading and weekly presentations, each student will learn the basic concepts of embryonic and adult stem cells, as well as recent findings in these rapidly advancing fields. The format of the course will be weekly seminar-style presentations, where each doctoral student will present once during the quarter. Each speaker will be responsible for providing a basic introduction of each topic to educate the class on the aims and significance of each publication. In addition, each speaker is responsible for leading a discussion of each paper in the style of a journal club. After introducing the paper, each discussion leader will randomly select students to present each figure in their paper. Two papers will be presented in each session. Each presentation should last a total of 45 minutes. Course information, including PDFs of all papers, can be found on our class website:

<http://www.biology.ucsd.edu/classes/bgg231.FA07>

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory. You must sign in every week on the sheet provided. One *excused* absence will be allowed per quarter.

Presentation

Each doctoral student will be assigned one paper to present. Introductory presentations should be relatively brief (15-20 minutes), thoroughly prepared and clearly delivered. You should use the provided review articles to help introduce your subject. In addition, you will almost surely need to read additional reviews and publications to assist your understanding and presentation of each paper. You are strongly encouraged to use Powerpoint, Keynote, or PDFs to assist in the clarity and concision of your presentation. Your job is to help the class gain a clear understanding of the conceptual context, purpose and significance of each paper. The presenter is responsible for importing each figure (including supplemental figures from journal websites) into Powerpoint, etc. for presentation by randomly selected students. The instructors will be available for consultation during the preparation of your presentation, both to help you understand the paper and to offer guidance on presentation content.

Participation

It is assumed that each participant has read carefully, and is conversant with the contents of, each of the papers assigned for a given week. This includes the background information contained in the assigned reviews. Students will be randomly selected by the discussion leader to present the figures in the paper under discussion. In addition, it is expected that each student will regularly make spontaneous contributions to the discussion. This course will be graded by 1) quality of presentations, 2) preparedness and understanding of presented figures by each selected student, and 3) participation in each discussion. Grades for Master's students will be based on items 2 and 3. Approximately half of the total points will be based on participation for all students.