

## **Syllabus**

### **MCB 5896 Rotations in MCB Laboratories (3 credits)**

The goal of “Rotations in MCB Laboratories” is to expose incoming MCB Ph.D. students to three different MCB laboratories in a coordinated and formalized manner before selecting a major advisor and joining a lab. Students will spend approximately six to eight weeks in each lab. Each lab is run by a Principle Investigator (PI) who is faculty member of MCB with an appointment on the Graduate Faculty of the University of Connecticut. The students are expected to meet with the PI, perform a research project, participate in lab meetings and get to know the other lab members. During this time the student assesses if this PI, lab and research interest are a good fit and the PI assesses if this student is a valuable addition to their lab.

#### **Instructor and office hours:**

Joerg Graf, BPB 409, [joerg.graf@uconn.edu](mailto:joerg.graf@uconn.edu) and office hours by appointment.

#### **Expectations:**

Students should discuss the expectations for the rotation with the PI (The Professor of the rotation lab). If students plan to be absent during the rotation, they should coordinate this activity with the PI. In addition to doing research, PIs typically expect students to participate in lab meetings, read scientific papers and present their work at the end of the rotation.

**Textbook:** At the Bench, a Laboratory Navigator, Updated Ed., by Kathy Barker.

#### **Formal meetings in BPB 201 at 10:30 am.**

For several of the meetings listed below, a chapter is assigned for reading. Each lab has a copy of the book and you can read it in your lab. During these classes, we will discuss these chapters.

1. August 26<sup>th</sup> Chemical Safety Training
2. September 23<sup>th</sup> How to succeed in your Ph.D. program and Chapter 1: General Lab Organization and Procedures
3. October 7<sup>th</sup> Chapter 4: How to Set Up an Experiment
4. November 18<sup>th</sup> Chapter 5: Laboratory Notebooks

#### **Rotation periods:**

Rotation 1: August 26 – October 13<sup>th</sup> (7 weeks)

Rotation 2: October 14<sup>th</sup> – November 24<sup>th</sup> (6 weeks)

Rotation 3: November 25<sup>th</sup> – January 12<sup>th</sup> (7 weeks)

#### **Grading:**

The grading is comprised of the three rotations (25% each) and the lecture component (25%). Each PI The PI during each of the three rotations determine the grade and reports the assessment to the instructor. For the lecture component participation in the discussions and exercises is evaluated.

**Assignments of rotations:**

For the first rotation students should visit the MCB website ([mcb.uconn.edu](http://mcb.uconn.edu)) and learn about the research interests of the labs and contact potential PIs by e-mail. For rotations #2 and #3, students need to meet with the potential PIs before making their rotation choices. For each rotation student should submit by e-mail their preferred rotation choices, ranked from 1-4 (with 1 being the most preferred) to Dr. Graf by August 12<sup>th</sup> for rotation #1, by October 9<sup>th</sup> for rotation #2 and by November 18<sup>th</sup> for rotation #3.