Syllabus

Excluding materials for purchase, syllabus information may be subject to change.

Course and Instructor Information

Course Title: Research Literature in MCB **-** Microbiology in the News
Credits: 3
Format: Online
Prerequisites: None

Professor: Patricia Rossi

Email: patricia.rossi@uconn.edu (preferred method of contact)
Office Hours/Availability: Wed. and Fri. 1:15-3:15pm EST (on-line or on-site Beach Hall 201A)
Phone or Skype meetings may be arranged by e-mail if necessary
Please allow up to 24 hours for a reply to a question. Most questions will be answered in less than 24 hours.

Course Materials

Texts are available through a local or online bookstore. The UConnBookstore carries many materials that can be shipped via its online Textbooks To Go service. For more information, see Textbooks and Materials on our Enrolled Students page.

Required Materials:
Item 1. Preston, R. (1995). *The Hot Zone* ISBN-13:978-0385479561
Item 2. Pechenik, J. *A Short Guide to Writing About Biology* ISBN-13:978-0321385925

Optional Materials:
Item 1. A recent microbiology textbook such as Microbiology by David Wessnar published by Wiley ISBN: 978-0-471-69434-2

Additional course readings and media are available within HuskyCT, through either an Internet link or Library Resources

Course Description

Research Literature in MCB - Microbiology in the News is a W course that uses topics of public interest in microbiology to focus our writing topics. We discuss things like how the media portrays microbiological topics to the general public and the types of response that the public at large might have to mass media representation. We use some of these current microbial issues to contrast how the scientific community discusses topics of microbial importance; specifically we begin a journey towards understanding "the scientific paper". Finally we focus on a reading of The Hot Zone, a non-fiction thriller which helps us to juxtapose the discovery of the Ebola virus with the 2013 Ebola outbreak in Africa. Upon completing the course students should be able to approach everyday topics of microbiology with a critical eye, furthermore they should have an understanding of how the popular perception of science contrasts with the rigor that goes into scientific papers. Finally students should feel confident in approaching any scientific paper for the big picture and have worked on their writing technique extensively.

Course Objectives

By the end of the semester, students should be able to:

1. Evaluate scientific content, no matter the source, critically.
2. Apply critical thinking skills to confidently approach primary literature articles.
3. Write technically correct, logically organized, and critically analyzed papers.
4. Evaluate writing on a technical, organizational and content level.

Course Requirements and Grading

An online course requires discipline, self-motivation, collaboration, and organization. Although there is greater flexibility for "when" you need to complete your work in an online course than there is in a face-to-face course, there are specific due dates throughout the semester. You should log into the course at a minimum of at least every other day to keep up with announcements. Class participation is expected (see credit hour university policy). Please plan your time accordingly.

Summary of Course Grading:

Course Components	Points	Weight
Discussions	120	20%
Personal Statement	100	20%
Summary/Critiques	400	20%
Hot Zone	100	20%
Presentation	100	20%
Total	820	100%

Discussions: Discussion board assignments based off of class reading or videos. An initial post and a separate reply is always required.

Writing Assignments- each of the assignments require a draft to be submitted which will be edited, returned and then resubmitted for final assessment

Personal Statement (2 pages): A piece of work you may use for a professional school or job application. Serves to introduce the students to the professor and embark on our writing journey in a fairly gentle manner.

Four Summary/Critiques (2 pages each): These papers serve to sharpen not only your writing, but also critical analysis skills as well.

Hot Zone Critique (7 pages): In this assignment you are applying not only the writing skills you have been working on all semester, but your critical analysis skills as well. This should be a critical discussion of the work.

Presentation-A powerpoint presentation approximately 15 slides in length that focuses on 3 primary literature papers on a microbiology topic of your choice. The major findings of each paper, using primary data in support, should be discussed. After discussing each paper separately, the importance of the papers should also be integrated into one final discussion.

SAFE ASSIGN: This course does use Safe Assign which is a tool used to prevent plagiarism and to create opportunities to help students identify how to properly attribute sources. "SafeAssign compares

submitted assignments against a set of sources to identify areas of overlap between the submitted assignment and existing works."

Grading Scale:

Undergrad

Grade	Letter Grade	GPA
93-100	A	4.0
90-92	A-	3.7
87-89	B+	3.3
83-86	B	3.0
80-82	B-	2.7
77-79	C+	2.3
73-76	C	2.0
70-72	C-	1.7
67-69	D+	1.3
63-66	D	1.0
60-62	D-	0.7
<60	F	0.0

Due Dates and Late Policy

All course due dates are identified in the **Class Schedule**. Deadlines are based on Eastern Standard Time; if you are in a different time zone, please adjust your submittal times accordingly. ***The instructor reserves the right to change dates accordingly as the semester progresses.*** *All changes will be communicated in an appropriate manner.*

Late Work receives a zero except for cases of emergency.

Late work will only be accepted under cases of documentable emergencies. Emergencies would be things such as a hospitalization or illness for which you have received a doctor's note, a family member's documentable medical emergency, or heaven forbid a death.

If you have planned travel during the class duration please get in touch with me **BEFORE** you go just in case you encounter internet issues.

Feedback and Grades

To keep track of your performance in the course, refer to My Grades in HuskyCT.

Student Responsibilities and Resources

As a member of the University of Connecticut student community, you are held to certain standards and academic policies. In addition, there are numerous resources available to help you succeed in your academic work. This section provides a brief overview to important standards, policies and resources.

Student Code

You are responsible for acting in accordance with the University of Connecticut's Student Code Review and become familiar with these expectations. In particular, make sure you have read the section that applies to you on Academic Integrity:

- [Academic Integrity in Undergraduate Education and Research](#)
- [Academic Integrity in Graduate Education and Research](#)

Cheating and plagiarism are taken very seriously at the University of Connecticut. As a student, it is your responsibility to avoid plagiarism. If you need more information about the subject of plagiarism, use the following resources
[Plagiarism: How to Recognize it and How to Avoid It](#)
- [University of Connecticut Libraries' Student Instruction](#) (includes research, citing and writing resources)

Copyright

Copyrighted materials within the course are only for the use of students enrolled in the course for purposes associated with this course and may not be retained or further disseminated.

Netiquette and Communication

At all times, course communication with fellow students and the instructor are to be professional and courteous. It is expected that you proofread all your written communication, including discussion posts, assignment submissions, and mail messages. If you are new to online learning or need a netiquette refresher, please look at this guide titled, [The Core Rules of Netiquette](#).

Adding or Dropping a Course

If you should decide to add or drop a course, there are official procedures to follow:
- Matriculated students should add or drop a course through the [Student Administration System](#).
- Non-degree students should refer to [Non-Degree Add/Drop Information](#) located on the registrar's website.

You must officially drop a course to avoid receiving an "F" on your permanent transcript. Simply discontinuing class or informing the instructor you want to drop does not constitute an official drop of the course. For more information, refer to the:

- [Undergraduate Catalog](#)
- [Graduate Catalog](#)

Academic Calendar

The University's [Academic Calendar](#) contains important semester dates.

Academic Support Resources

[Technology and Academic Help](#) provides a guide to technical and academic assistance.

Students with Disabilities

Students needing special accommodations should work with the University's [Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD)](#). You may contact CSD by calling (860) 486-2020 or by emailing csd@uconn.edu. If your request for accommodation is approved, CSD will send an accommodation letter directly to your instructor(s) so that special arrangements can be made. (Note: Student requests for accommodation must

be filed each semester.)

Blackboard measures and evaluates accessibility using two sets of standards: the WCAG 2.0 standards issued by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) and Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act issued in the United States federal government." (Retrieved March 24, 2013 from Blackboard's website)

Policy Against Discrimination, Harassment and Inappropriate Romantic Relationships

The University is committed to maintaining an environment free of discrimination or discriminatory harassment directed toward any person or group within its community – students, employees, or visitors. Academic and professional excellence can flourish only when each member of our community is assured an atmosphere of mutual respect. All members of the University community are responsible for the maintenance of an academic and work environment in which people are free to learn and work without fear of discrimination or discriminatory harassment. In addition, inappropriate Romantic relationships can undermine the University's mission when those in positions of authority abuse or appear to abuse their authority. To that end, and in accordance with federal and state law, the University prohibits discrimination and discriminatory harassment, as well as inappropriate Romantic relationships, and such behavior will be met with appropriate disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal from the University. Refer to the Policy Against Discrimination, Harassment and Inappropriate Romantic Relationships for more information.
Sexual Assault Reporting Policy

To protect the campus community, all non-confidential University employees (including faculty) are required to report assaults they witness or are told about to the Office of Diversity & Equity under the Sexual Assault Response Policy. The University takes all reports with the utmost seriousness. Please be aware that while the information you provide will remain private, it will not be confidential and will be shared with University officials who can help. Refer to the Sexual Assault Reporting Policy for more information.

Software Requirements and Technical Help

The technical requirements for this course include:

- Word processing software
- Adobe Acrobat Reader
- Internet access

This course is completely facilitated online using the learning management platform, HuskyCT. If you have difficulty accessing HuskyCT, students have access to the in person/live person support options available during regular business hours through HuskyTech. Students also have 24x7 Course Support including access to live chat, phone, and support documents.

Minimum Technical Skills

To be successful in this course, you will need the following technical skills:

- Use electronic mail with attachments.
- Save files in commonly used word processing program formats.
- Copy and paste text, graphics or hyperlinks.
- Work within two or more browser windows simultaneously.
- Open and access PDF files.

University students are expected to demonstrate competency in Computer Technology. Explore the [Computer Technology Competencies](#) page for more information.