DEVELOPMENTAL AND REPRODUCTIVE BIOLOGY SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATIONS (DRB 614) COURSE INFORMATION

Course Coordinator: Dr. Monika Ward
Institute for Biogenesis (IBR) Room E-104
Tel: 956-0779; mward@hawaii.edu

Day and Time: Wednesdays, 12PM – 1.30PM

Location: IBR Conference Room
Manoa Campus
1960 East-West Rd, Honolulu

Credits: 3 credits per semester

Course Objective:

This course aims to teach students how to handle scientific articles, how to present them both in an informal discussion and in a more formal power point and/or pdf supported presentation. Knowledge acquired from this course will be crucial in preparation for DRB Qualifying Exam, which is given at the end of second semester in DRB graduate program. One of the objectives of the qualifying exam is to test students' ability to extrapolate fundamental principles of developmental and reproductive biology acquired from DRB 601 course into meaningful concepts through interpretation of experimental data (i.e. thorough analysis of original, peer-reviewed articles from the DRB field).

Course Description:

DRB 614 is a 3-credit course, with 3 hours per week (1.5 hours of class and 1.5 hours of independent study), 16 weeks per semester. Each student will be required to present and discuss at least one article per semester. The article can be suggested by a student but will have to be approved by the instructor; it must fit within DRB theme. The article to be presented will be given to all students one week before the presentation. All students will be required to familiarize themselves with the article (1.5 hours of Directed Reading/Independent Study). During the class, all students will be required to answer 5 multiple-choice questions on the article content (the first 15 minutes of the class), to assess their preparedness for the class. During the following 45 minutes of the class student-presenter will present the article in a power point format. The last 30 minutes of the class will be spent on discussion. The discussion will be about both scientific content of the article and about the quality of its presentation.

During the course students will also engage in other activities or an independent project. This can involve Own-Research presentations or writing a MOCK paper or something else.

Grading:

100% attendance is required for passing this course. The course coordinator may grant exceptions from 100% attendance ONLY when legitimate reasons for absence are provided, and the request is made IN ADVANCE.

Students will be graded based on three components: (1) Results of multiple-choice quiz given in the beginning of each class during which an article is presented/discussed (15 points); (2) Presentation of the article/s (40 points); (3) Activity during discussion (15 points); (4) Other Projects (30 points).

The content of the presentation will be graded considering the following aspects:

(a) Accuracy in passing on the information provided by article (10 points)

(b) Providing broader aspects of the presented work by relating to other relevant studies (10 points)

(c) Personal commentary on the article* (10 points)

(d) Overall clarity of thought (10 points)

(e) Format of the presentation (10 points)

* In Personal Commentary the students should present their thoughts about the paper. They can discuss both the content and the format of presentation. They can comment on why they have chosen the article (if it was their choice), what they have learned from it, how it matches their interest… etc.

The MOCK paper exercise (if used as part of the curriculum) will be assessed for both content and format. The MOCK paper presentation will be assessed for overall quality.

The Own-Research presentations (if used as part of the curriculum) will be assessed for overall quality.

Other information:

Course coordinator will be happy to answer any queries and help with any matters relating to this course. The best medium to contact the instructor is e-mail.