

**Syllabus: BOL 6111. 016 Graduate Research Presentation**  
Version 01-28-2025. Subject to change.

**Course Information**

Course Prefix, Number, Section: BIOL 6111.016  
Course Title: Graduate Research Presentation  
Term: Spring 2025  
Days & Times: Friday 10am-11:30am  
Class Location: FN 2.210

**Professor Contact Information**

Professor: Dr. Tian Hong  
Email Address: [hong@utdallas.edu](mailto:hong@utdallas.edu)  
Email Policy: Email is monitored between 8-5 on weekdays and responses are typically sent within 48 h.  
Office Location: FN 3.118A  
Office Hours: MS Teams or in-person: by appointment.

**Course Pre-requisite**

Enrollment in the Master of Science in Bioinformatics and Computational Biology, Master of Science in Biotechnology, Master of Science in Molecular and Cell Biology, or the Doctor of Philosophy in Molecular and Cell Biology degree programs. Enrollment in an individual section requires instructional permission.

**Course Description**

Graduate research development encompasses hypothesis building and testing, designing, and conducting experiments, and finally presenting your findings in an efficient and clear manner to a scientific audience. Graduate students will meet weekly to attend, discuss, and present their ongoing graduate research progress with a new student presenting every week.

**Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes**

In this course students will learn how to formulate, present, and critique scientific research. Learning will be assessed through presentations and participation.

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- 1) Formulate clear and testable hypothesis to address their scientific goals.
- 2) Create a polished scientific presentation
- 3) Gain experience presenting and fielding questions from a scientific audience
- 4) Refine their experimental design and future directions through receiving and incorporating audience feedback.

**Supplemental Course Materials**

*No formalized supplemental text*

## Assignments & Academic Calendar

### Academic Calendar

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>
Week 1	Introduction to course presentation and syllabus
Week 2	Presenter 1 (Title TBD) and discussion
Week 3	Presenter 2 (Title TBD) and discussion
Week 4	Presenter 3 (Title TBD) and discussion
Week 5	Presenter 4 (Title TBD) and discussion
Week 6	Presenter 5 (Title TBD) and discussion
Week 7	Presenter 6 (Title TBD) and discussion
Week 8	Presenter 7 (Title TBD) and discussion
Week 9	Presenter 1 (Title TBD) and discussion
Week 10	Presenter 2 (Title TBD) and discussion
Week 11	Presenter 3 (Title TBD) and discussion
Week 12	Presenter 4 (Title TBD) and discussion
Week 13	Presenter 5 (Title TBD) and discussion
Week 14	Presenter 6 (Title TBD) and discussion
Week 15	Presenter 7 (Title TBD) and discussion
Week 16	All presenters 10-minute chalk talk with discussion.

---

## Course Policies

### Grading (credit) Criteria

#### **1<sup>st</sup> presentation: Worth 35% of final grade (40% total)**

*Content and format of presentation:* The first presentation will be composed by the student based on their ongoing graduate research project. The presentation should run for 1 hour and grading will be weighted by the following sections: an introduction (10%), background (20%), a clearly stated hypothesis (10%), results (30%), and future directions (20%) section (for 90% total points). After the presentation there will be a 30 min discussion section moderated by the faculty member. Presenting students will be graded on their response to audience questions based on an assessment of having sufficiently

researched the presented topic (10% total points). The final 30 min will consist of a suggestion for improvement section based on comments from the faculty and audience.

**2<sup>nd</sup> presentation: Worth 35% of final grade (40% total)**

*Content and format of presentation:* The second presentation will be composed like the first by the student based on their ongoing graduate research project and should be updated from their first presentation. The results and future direction sections should be new. The presentation should run for 1 hour and grading will be weighted by the following sections: an introduction (10%), a background (10%), a clearly stated hypothesis (10%), results (30%), and future directions (10%) section (for 70% total presentation points). After the presentation there will be a 30 min discussion section moderated by the faculty member. Presenting students will be graded on their response to audience questions based on an assessment of having sufficiently researched the presented topic (10% total presentation points). The final 30 min will consist of a discussion on how the student incorporated the suggested changes from the first presentation (20% total presentation points assigned based on how the student utilized the classroom feedback to improve their presentation).

**Participation: Worth 10% of final grade**

Class participation in post presentation discussions and suggested improvement sections. Each student is expected to ask at least 1 question per presenter and offer at least 1 suggestion each week.

**Attendance: Worth 10% of final grade**

Each student is expected to attend each presentation and discussion session. Students will be deducted 1% of their final grade for each unexcused absence.

**Grading scale**

Grade	Percentage	Grade	Percentage	Grade	Percentage
A+	97.00–100.00	A	93.00–96.99	A–	89.50–92.99
B+	87.00–89.49	B	83.00–86.99	B–	79.50–82.99
C+	77.00–79.49	C	73.00–76.99	C–	69.50–72.99
D+	67.00–69.49	D	59.50–66.99		

**Extra Credit**

There is no extra credit for the course.

**Class Attendance**

If you are unable to attend class for an excused reason, please contact the course professor. **DO NOT attend class if you test positive for COVID-19.** Please notify the professor immediately and give proof of a positive test result so that accommodations may be made. If you must miss class due to another excused reason (e.g. religious holiday, medical school interview) please notify the Professor **prior to your absence.**

**Classroom Citizenship**

Please treat everyone with kindness, dignity, and respect. Please do not interrupt or raise your voice to the Professors, or your classmates during class. Please be mindful of the social distancing requests of your professors, and your classmates and consider wearing a face covering to protect yourself and others if you are feeling unwell. If you arrive late to class, do so quietly. Please make sure all phones and electronic devices are on silent.

**Comet Creed**

This creed was voted on by the UT Dallas student body in 2014. It is a standard that

Comets choose to live by and encourage others to do the same:

*“As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity, and service in all that I do.”*

**Academic Support Resources**

The information contained in the following link lists the University's academic support resources for all students.

Please go to <http://go.utdallas.edu/academic-support-resources>.

**UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures**

The information contained in the following link constitutes the University's policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus.

Please go to <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies> for these policies.

*The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professors.*

*The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.*