

**Biology Colloquium  
BIOL 870  
Fall 2020**

Instructor: Jazlyn Mooney  
Email: jaam@stanford.edu

Location: Zoom  
Time: Thurs 2:00-4:00

In this course, students' scientific curiosity will be piqued as they hear from and interact with biologists from a range of subfields.

**Course culture**

- Students are encouraged to bring their ideas and perspectives to interactions with leading research scientists through lunches and seminars.
- Formulating ideas/questions and sharing them both during and outside of class is highly encouraged as part of a respectful dialogue.
- To cultivate a lively and respectful professional seminar environment, we will all keep our attention focused on the speaker. This means no cell phone usage or off-topic computer usage during class.

**Disability access**

Students with disabilities who need reasonable accommodations are encouraged to contact the instructor. The Disability Programs and Resource Center (DPRC) is available to facilitate the reasonable accommodations process. The DPRC is located in the Student Service Building and can be reached by telephone (voice/[415-338-2472](tel:415-338-2472), video phone/[415-335-7210](tel:415-335-7210)) or by email ([dprc@sfsu.edu](mailto:dprc@sfsu.edu)).

If your learning experience can be improved by an accommodation, please talk to Jazlyn.

**Zoom Links for Course**

**Seminar (2pm -3:30pm) :**

**Register for zoom webinar one time and you will be able to join for all future events with same info. automatically sent to you**

**Lunch (12pm-1pm):**

Zoom

**Email**

I may not respond to e-mails sent after 5:00pm until the following day. I will respond to your email within 24-hours. If I do not, please do not hesitate to email again or find me (via the zoom chat) after class to remind me.

- Include **"BIOL 870"** in the email header so I can find emails quickly

**Course work**

All work will be documented in the colloquium journal to be turned through gradescope once a week (**due every Thursday at 2pm**). Any work not documented in the colloquium journal will not count towards your grade. In order to accomplish all course requirements, you will need to add to your journal throughout the semester.

1. **Journal entries:** For each seminar you attend, write a journal entry including the speaker's name and affiliation, their result that was the most striking to you, and a question that result sparked for you (~150 words). Two journal entries will be dropped. If you miss more than two seminars through the semester, contact Jazlyn ASAP.
2. **Speaker question:** Ask at least one of the speakers at least one question. Record [in bold] your question(s) and the speaker's response in your journal entry for that seminar.
3. **Speaker lunch:** Attend at least two speaker lunches and describe [in bold] the experience in your journal entry for that seminar (~150 words). If you have a time conflict and cannot attend two lunches, contact Jazlyn by 7 September.
4. **Course tasks:** Perform course tasks (introduce a speaker, coordinate a lunch, make a poster). Note your tasks in your journal entry for that seminar. The number of course tasks will depend on the number of enrolled students. You are responsible to sign up for the appropriate number of course tasks [here](#). Specific descriptions of the course tasks are in a document on iLearn. If you run into problems, contact Jazlyn ASAP.

### Grading

Journal entries	60
Course tasks	10
Speaker question	10
Speaker lunches	10
Total	90

Final grades are computed as a letter grade, plus or minus where appropriate: A (93.00-100%), A- (90.00-92.99%), B+ (87.00-89.99%), B (83.00-86.99%), B- (80.00-82.99%), C+ (77.00-79.99%), C (73.00-76.99%), C- (70.00-72.99%), D+ (67.00-69.99%), D (63.00-66.99%), D- (60.00-62.99%) and F (59.99% or below).

Late work is strictly not accepted! However, you are allowed to miss two seminars without penalty. This course has one weekly assignment (colloquium journal **due every Thursday at 2pm on [gradescope](#)**), you are responsible to remember and turn in this assignment on time.

At the end of the semester, if a student is borderline between 2 grades (for example, between an A- and a B+), discretionary criteria will be used to determine which of the two grades the student receives. These criteria will include class participation, class attendance, and the student's willingness to seek help.

### Honor Code

As a student in this advanced class, you will be treated as a professional scientist, and you are agreeing to abide by a class honor code. This means that you agree not to cheat or participate in any type of academic misconduct (plagiarism etc). In addition, if you become aware that a classmate has cheated or engaged in academic misconduct, it is your responsibility to bring it to the instructor's attention. In this way, you and your classmates are responsible for each other's academic behavior.

### COVID-19 Accommodations

Your health and safety is our paramount concern at SF State. During the COVID-19 pandemic, every member of our Gator community is expected to do their part in keeping fellow students, faculty, and staff safe and well. Feeling well and safe will support you in focusing on your academic success.

For the limited number of classes meeting face-to-face, In-person class attendance is an option, but not a requirement. Students who do not wish to or are unable to comply with these requirements will be allowed to take the class virtually or provided with other remote options for course completion

Please consult the campus plan website (<https://news.sfsu.edu/campus-plan>) for up-to-date information and explanation of requirements. For all students attending in-person, the following are required:

1. Wear a face covering when around other people outside of those in your household.
2. Stay at least 6 feet physically distant from people outside the members of your household.
3. Stay home if you have one or more symptoms of COVID-19 (Please check in with the SF DPH website for the most up-to-date symptoms & testing: <https://www.sfcdep.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/GetTestedSF-Eng-052920.pdf>)
4. If you would like to discuss reasonable accommodations based on disability related to COVID-19, please contact the Disability Programs & Resource Center: [dprc@sfsu.edu](mailto:dprc@sfsu.edu)

Information is changing rapidly, as our health professionals, scholars, and researchers are learning more about COVID-19, and as such, we encourage you to frequently check your San Francisco State University email account and <https://news.sfsu.edu/campus-plan/students-families> for the most current information.

· You are encouraged to keep your emergency information updated on Campus Solutions in order to receive campus emergency alerts: <https://upd.sfsu.edu/ENSFAQ>

· You are also encouraged to provide your contact information to receive city of SF emergency alerts, including COVID-19 updates and instructions for public safety: <https://sfdem.org/get-city-alerts>

· If you have any questions regarding COVID-19 or your own health during this time, please reach out to Student Health Services: <https://health.sfsu.edu>

· If you are feeling overwhelmed, you are encouraged to connect with our on-campus health professionals in Counseling & Psychological Services: <https://caps.sfsu.edu>

· If you are looking for education on how to keep yourself and your loved ones healthy, then reach out to our Health Promotion & Wellness Team: <https://wellness.sfsu.edu>

### **Accommodating religious holidays**

The faculty of San Francisco State University shall accommodate students wishing to observe religious and cultural holidays when such observances require students to be absent from class activities. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor, in writing, about such holidays during the first two

weeks of the class each semester. If such holidays occur during the first two weeks of the semester, the student must notify the instructor, in writing, at least three days before the date that they will be absent. It is the responsibility of the instructor to make every reasonable effort to honor the student request without penalty, and of the student to make up the work missed. This policy shall be included in the University Bulletin, appropriate websites, the Faculty Manual, and undergraduate and graduate student handbooks. Faculty are encouraged to include the policy statement in their course syllabi. Students wishing to be excused from class attendance for religious observances must submit a written request to their instructors prior to their absences, as stated in the policy above.

Observance of Religious and Cultural Holidays Policy (S19-212)

### **Student disclosures of sexual violence**

SF State fosters a campus free of sexual violence including sexual harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and/or any form of sex or gender discrimination. If you disclose a personal experience as an SF State student, the course instructor is required to notify the Title IX Coordinator by completing the report form available at <http://titleix.sfsu.edu>, emailing [ypsaem@sfsu.edu](mailto:ypsaem@sfsu.edu) or calling 338-2032.

To disclose any such violence confidentially, contact:

- The SAFE Place - (415) 338-2208; [http://www.sfsu.edu/~safe\\_plc/](http://www.sfsu.edu/~safe_plc/)
- Counseling and Psychological Services Center - (415) 338-2208; <http://psyservs.sfsu.edu/>
- For more information on your rights and available resources: <http://titleix.sfsu.edu>

## Departmental and University Deadlines and Procedures

14 September – Last day to drop classes. During the first two weeks of instruction, dropping a course(s) is permitted without academic penalty. No symbol is recorded on the student's permanent record.

17 November – Withdrawal from a class. After the first two weeks of instruction, withdrawal from a course is *not permitted except for serious and compelling reasons*. The "W" grade carries no connotation of quality of student performance and is not used as units attempted in calculating grade point average or progress points. The expectation of being dropped for nonattendance is *not* a sufficient reason for withdrawal. If the withdrawal is approved, the student will receive a "W" grade. Requests for withdrawal are reviewed by the Instructor and Department Chair. Students must submit their unofficial transcripts along with their petitions.

14 December – Withdrawals are normally not permitted during this period except in cases of verified accident or serious illness where the cause of withdrawal is due to circumstances clearly beyond the student's control and where the assignment of an incomplete is not practical. Ordinarily, withdrawals in this category involve a total withdrawal from the University. All requests during this period must be reviewed by the Instructor, Department Chair, and Associate Dean. Students must submit their unofficial transcripts and appropriate documentation with their petitions.

Note: The University withdrawal policy is: A student may withdraw from an individual course only 2 times no matter what their circumstances are. The third time that the student enrolls in the same course (if the course repeat policy has been waived), they CANNOT withdraw for any reason