

BIO 243 / 353: Independent Research
Dr. Ettinger
Fall 2008

Meeting times: Tuesdays at 11 AM on 9/23, 10/7, 11/4, 12/2, location TBA
Dr. Ettinger's "official" office hours: Tuesday 3-4, Thursday 11-12

Other good times for help with research: M 9-12 or 4-5, T 4-5, R 2:30-4, F 10-12, 1:30-4

9/23 Paper presentations: Sonia and Nicole

10/7 Paper presentations: Sonya and Dah-ve

11/4 Paper presentations: Tasha and Emily

11/22 *Central PA SFN Meeting – plan to attend!*

12/2 Practice thesis talks by Sonia and Nicole, Semester summaries

TBA Senior Presentations

To be scheduled: Ice cream and honoring the graduating seniors (Sonya, Sonia, Nicole)

Expectations:

1. The Honor Code applies to all work done in a laboratory. In particular, students should put all supplies back in their proper places and report any equipment problems to Dr. Ettinger. Any chemical waste that is generated should be properly labeled and stored. Please wash your own dishes as often as possible. Do not allow dirty dishes to pile up in the fume hood!
2. A 2 credit lab experience means that students should spend *at least* 6 hours per week on lab work. Some of that time may be spent on reading papers from the primary literature related to your project; you should develop an annotated bibliography over the course of the semester to account for time spent on reading. This can either go in your lab notebook or into a typed document. The bibliography should include the citation information for each paper and a few sentence description of why the paper was interesting or helpful to you (Why did you read it? What information might you want from this paper later?).
3. For each scheduled meeting, students should be prepared to share abstracts from 2 interesting papers that you have read to share with the group. In addition, please place copies of PDF files, named as "author year" (e.g. Smith 2004) into the appropriate folder on the lab Mac computer. These folders are a good place to look for interesting papers to read.

4. These expectations are the minimum requirement, and fulfilling them does not guarantee you an “A” grade for research. Higher grades are generally awarded when students spend a lot of time in the lab (in addition to time spent on reading), work independently, seek out Dr. Ettinger with specific questions, meet with Dr. Ettinger to discuss your paper presentation (and incorporate the suggestions made), have a very clear notebook, etc.
5. The Central Pennsylvania Chapter of the Society for Neuroscience will be holding its second annual meeting at Hershey Medical Center on Saturday, November 22. Please plan to attend. Seniors may present a poster at this meeting.

Grades will be calculated as follows:

- 50% Experimental work (quality and quantity)
- 10% Lab notebook (Due Friday, December 12 by 5 PM)
- 10% Paper presentation at group meeting / Discussion leadership
Students are encouraged to meet with me before the presentation to go over your questions about the paper and practice your presentation. You **must** send your paper by PDF and/or give me a paper copy for distribution at least one week in advance. For the actual presentation, bring a list of questions for discussion with the group.
- 10% Annotated bibliography / primary literature reading
BIO 243 students: at least 10 papers, BIO 353 students: at least 15 papers
- 5% Individual meetings with Dr. Ettinger. Since we are having fewer lab meetings this semester than usual, please plan to meet with me AT LEAST 5 times over the course of the semester individually to discuss your project. These meetings could take place in my office or in the lab.
- 5% Attendance at group meeting, participation in discussions, and sharing of literature.
Plan to read the papers chosen by your colleagues, and come prepared with questions for discussion.
- 10% End of semester written summary (Due Friday, December 12 by 5 PM)