

BIO 243 / 353: Independent Research  
Dr. Ettinger  
Fall 2009

Meeting times: Fridays, 1:15-2:15

Dr. Ettinger's "official" office hours: Monday, Friday 10:30-12:00

I strongly encourage you to make research-related appointments with me at other times; I am very flexible this semester, but will not always be on campus unless I have an appointment.

8/28 Introduction, semester goals

9/4 Interesting Neuroscience: Modeling human language in mice (Dr. E, papers to be distributed)

9/11 Paper presentation: Tasha

9/18 Paper presentation: Katie

9/25 Paper presentation: Dah-ve

10/2 Paper presentation: Caye

10/9 Beginning of Fall Break – "open lab time" for those interested

10/16 No meeting

10/23 President Ambar inauguration – no classes, no meetings

10/30 Mid-semester summaries (and maybe another Cool Neuroscience Paper)

11/6 Paper presentation: Erin

11/13 Open lab time

11/20 TBA

11/27 Thanksgiving break

12/4 Semester Summaries: prepare a 5 minute PowerPoint presentation!

12/8 Friday schedule. End of semester ice cream trip!

### 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.

### Grades will be calculated as follows:

- 50% Experimental work (quality and quantity) and lab notebook (Due Tuesday, December 8 by 5 PM)
- 10% Progress reports (Due by 5 PM on 9/11, 9/25, 10/9, 10/23, 11/6, 11/20)  
New this semester! A form will be provided on the eCollege site. The goal of these reports is to keep me informed of your progress and to keep you on track for the semester.
- 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** post your paper on eCollege 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. Please plan to meet with me AT LEAST 5 times over the course of the semester individually to discuss or work on 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. Some weeks, we will also have time for each of you to share what you have been working on in the lab and/or the papers you have been reading.
- 5% Mid semester summary. Informal description of your progress thus far and your plan for the rest of the semester. Scheduled for October 30.
- 5% End of semester written summary (Due Tuesday December 8 by 5 PM)