

EBIO 6100-002: *Scientific Survival and Professional Development*
Spring, 2009 Wednesdays 3 to 5 pm in Ramaley N183

Professors:

DR. ROB GURALNICK

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DR. PIETER JOHNSON

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Class meeting time: Wednesdays 3 to 5 pm

Location: Ramaley N183

Textbook: none – see course website

Website: Syllabus, reading materials and discussion papers available on website.

What is this course about?

Part of surviving graduate school in the sciences and getting finding the type of job you want afterwards is knowing the often unspoken rules, traditions, and shortcuts that are not covered in a standard course. This course will try to provide you with information about the many aspects of a scientific career (in or out of academia) to help you succeed in your chosen path. It certainly won't give you all the answers, but hopefully it will give you some tools to help you find the rest of the answers yourselves.

Organization of the course.

We have provided a tentative schedule that we'll go over with you. But we'd also like to keep the scheduling somewhat flexible based upon your input and any opportunities that arise during the semester (eg. we have a job search going on this semester that might prove insightful).

Readings.

We have a lot of readings and handouts that we will be giving out. These are for your information. We will also have some discussions about a few of these topics and some panel discussions about others. Overall we aim to keep your required 'out of class' readings to a minimum and will focus instead on in-class discussions and activities.

Your responsibilities.

- 1) Attend class each week and participate in the discussions
- 2) Do the readings
- 3) Create or update your curriculum vita
- 4) Write a grant proposal. This proposal will be reviewed by 3 or 4 members of the class. We will then have a panel (similar to those at NSF) that will review each proposal and decide which ones get funded and which ones don't. You will get the reviews (which will be anonymous) for your proposal. Ideally you will submit this proposal to a real granting agency during the spring.
- 5) Review 3 proposals.
- 6) Develop a professional website for yourself
- 7) Give a 10-15 minute research presentation. This will be reviewed by the class and should be prepared as for a professional meeting, using slides, power point or other digital media format (note: 35 mm slides are almost obsolete).

Tentative Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Activity
Jan 14	Introduction, general survival, CVs and job candidates	Bring in a copy of your CV; review the CVs of 3-4 job candidates for the Curator of Botany search
Jan 21	Grant writing, grant getting and the peer review system	Grant assignment given out Updated CVs due
Jan 28	Creativity and the generation of novel ideas (Part I of “Publish or Perish”)	Case study
Feb 4	Giving talks and networking	How not to give a presentation
Feb 11	Technology in science	Website assignment given out
Feb 18	Teaching and mentoring	Guest speaker
Feb 25	Scientific ethics and conduct	Case studies ESA code of ethics
Mar 4	Science advocacy and dealing with the media	Discussion: ecologists and evolutionary biologists as environmentalists Case study and guest speaker Grant Proposals Due (5 copies).
Mar 11	GRANT PANEL REVIEW I	Everyone – discuss and decide which proposals to fund.
Mar 18	GRANT PANEL REVIEW II	
Apr 1	Authorship and publishing (Part II of “Publish or Perish”)	Bring in publishing tips from your advisor
Apr 8	Science job interviews, postdocs	Website assignment due
Apr 15	Careers beyond academia	Panel discussion
Apr 22	Work-family balance and stress management	Guest speaker
Apr 29	STUDENT PRESENTATIONS	Provide anonymous feedback to speakers
May 6	FINALS WEEK	

COURSE POLICIES AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

SPECIAL ACCOMODATIONS

Disabilities

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit a letter to the professor from Disability Services within 2 weeks of the start of the semester so that your needs may be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: 303-492-8671, Willard 322, or www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices

Religious observance

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to fairly deal with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. If there is a problem, see one of us immediately. See policy details at http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html

Discrimination

The University of Colorado at Boulder policy on Discrimination and Harassment, the University of Colorado policy on Sexual Harassment and the University of Colorado policy on Amorous Relationships apply to all students, staff and faculty. Any student, staff or faculty member who believes s/he has been the subject of discrimination or harassment based upon race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. Information about the ODH, the above referenced policies and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at <http://www.colorado.edu/odh>

HONOR CODE

All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council (honor@colorado.edu; 303-725-2273). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion).

CU Honor Code Pledge: 'On my honor as a University of Colorado at Boulder student I have neither given nor received unauthorized assistance on this work.'

Additional information on the Honor Code can be found at

<http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html> and at <http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/>