Topic: Current Research on Human Diseases and Treatments

Description:
Bio 470 (1 credit hour) is designed to teach students to research, prepare and present a seminar on the latest research on congenital defects occurring from teratogens or genetic anomalies. Each presentation should address 4 area of interest:
1. Background on normal anatomical/physiological processes
2. Likely causes of the diseases (i.e., proteins, growth factors, genes involved).
4. Prognostic approaches for the early detection of these diseases.
5. Latest preventative measures and/or treatment modalities to correct the problem.

Expectation:
A minimum of 10 “peer-reviewed” journal articles must be used in the preparation of the presentation. A complete bibliography must be turned into the instructor on the day of the seminar. Each presentation should last 30-40 minutes. Students failing to meet the time limitations will be penalized 2 point for each minute under or over the allotted time. Each student will develop a list of 10 questions (that will be answered during the presentation) and provide copies for each member of the class. Grades for the course will be based on thoroughness of preparation, quality of the presentation (i.e., PowerPoint and speaking ability), participation in discussion, attendance to all presentations, and an exam over all seminars presented.

Major Field Biology Test: BIO 470 students are required to take the Major Field Test in Biology. You must sign up for this test with Testing Services (Rusk Building rm 328; 936-468-3958) and keep your appointment. Students failing to take this test will receive a withheld grade (WH) for the course in addition to a penalty of 5% of the final grade. Your score will not harm your grade in the class.
Grading policy:
Presentation – 100 pts
Final Exam – 100 pts
Participation – 25 pts

One excused absence without penalty is allowable. 10 points will be deducted for each additional absence. Failure to ask questions and participate verbally in class will result in the deduction of participation points (at my discretion)

Course grades will be assigned as follows:
A – 89.5% and higher
B – 79.5% - 89.4%
C – 69.5% - 79.4%
D – 59.5% - 69.4%
F – 59.4% and below.

Academic Integrity (A-9.1):

Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one’s own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one’s paper without giving the author due credit.

Please read the complete policy at www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp

Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (A-54):

Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they
received a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms, the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

**Students with Disabilities:**

To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468/3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to [www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/](http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/)

**Acceptable Student Behavior (D-34.1):**

Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the Student Conduct Code, policy D-34.1). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.