

## **Syllabus BIO425 – Fall 2009**

### **Biology Seminar: Genetic engineering and biotechnology**

**Class website:** <http://elegans.uky.edu/425/425ge.html>

**Instructor:** Jim Lund, jiml at uky dot edu, Morgan 311

**Place:** THM 205, 11:00 am Monday or Tuesday

**Format:** Student-led presentation and discussion of scientific publications

**Objective:** Familiarize you with the organization and content of contemporary research papers and learn how to present information from a research paper in a graduate student type of seminar course.

**Required Book:** None. The instructor will assign published papers. See the class web site for assigned reading.

**Preparing to lead discussion of a paper:** At least one week before your presentation meet with me to demonstrate your understanding of the article and discuss the background you have prepared for your presentation.

**Undergraduate Student Course Requirements and Grading:**  
(100 points total: A=90-100; B=80-89; C=70-79; D=60-69; F<60)

40% How well you lead the discussion. Each week, one student will independently introduce and lead discussion of the results from a scientific paper. The student leading the discussion will present background information and a summary of the paper and the ideas it addresses. Students will be graded on the content of their presentations and their ability to answer questions.

20% Participation in discussions. Be familiar with the paper and ask informed questions of about it.

20% Quizzes. A quiz will be given prior to five classes to test students on basic information in the assigned reading. If you read the papers, you will do well on the quizzes.

20% Attendance: Attendance is required. I will allow one excused absence without penalty, but additional absences will subtract 4 pts each from your final grade.

**POLICY ON MISSED ASSIGNMENTS.** Allowable excuses are described in the Student Rights and Responsibilities handbook.