INSTRUCTOR: Leslee Parr, Ph.D.
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Office hours: MW 3:00-5:00 or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION: A seminar designed to introduce graduate students to principles and topics in contemporary biological research. Enrollment is mandatory for biology graduate students during their first two semesters in the graduate program. Graduate students must take this course twice for credit during their tenure at SJSU. Students are expected to enroll in this department seminar every semester of attendance at SJSU. A schedule of seminar speakers and topics will be posted across from the Department office (DH 254) and on the Graduate Program bulletin board across from DH 644.

PREREQUISITE: Graduate standing or consent of instructor

CLASS HOURS: The scheduled hours will be W 1:30-2:30. Seminars for Spring 2007 are scheduled for the following dates:
August 30
September 1, 8, 15, 22
October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
Final Writing assignment: December 6

GRADES: Credit/No Credit grading. The course grade will be based on:
1) Participation: Participation is demonstrated by the student signing in to each seminar session and by a sincere attempt to ask questions and interact with the seminar speakers. Failure to sign in on more than two occasions without prior consultation with the instructor will result in a NC grade.
2) Final Writing: On Dec. 6 three seminars titles will be drawn during class time. Students will be asked to complete an essay summary of one of the three selected seminars (student choice). Failure to demonstrate
comprehension of one of the selected seminar topics will result in a NC grade.

3) **Completion of information** for the graduate student database is also required, including a **digital photograph**. Failure to complete the database information will result in a grade of 'I' (incomplete) for the semester.

*Sign in will occur either 1:25-1:30, or 2:20-2:30. The timing of the weekly sign in will vary in a random manner.

**DEPARTMENT POLICY:** University and department guidelines require a serious and compelling reason to drop a course. Grades, alone, do not constitute a reason to drop a course.

**SJSU ACADEMIC SENATE POLICY:**
Academic integrity statement (from Office of Judicial Affairs):
‘Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San José State University, and the University’s Academic Integrity Policy requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty are required to report all infractions to the Office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development.” The policy on academic integrity can be found at [http://sa.sjsu.edu/student_conduct](http://sa.sjsu.edu/student_conduct).

Campus policy in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act:
“If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities register with DRC to establish a record of their disability.”