

Graduate Student Syllabus

See the undergraduate version of the syllabus, available from the course web site, for those items that apply to all students, undergraduate and graduate, who take this course. The present document describes additional requirements for graduate students only.

As described in the general syllabus, all students can accumulate up to 500 points from the lecture exams (300 points), essays (50 points), and lab assignments (150 points). Grades for graduate students will be based on an additional 150 points due to the following requirements:

1. In-class or lab presentation: Each graduate student must present one lecture during the semester or develop and oversee a lab exercise. If a lecture, it must use the full class time. The topic and date for the presentation/lab must be approved in advance by me. Scheduling of the presentation/lab will be determined by how the topic fits with other material being covered in the course. You must decide on your topic no later than the end of the 3rd week of class (January 27). You must provide me with a detailed outline of the lecture or lab procedure at least 1 week before your presentation. For in-class presentations you are strongly encouraged to be creative by incorporating Powerpoint, web sites, and other materials. Let me know if you need any help with this. All students will be responsible for the material you cover (i.e., it will be on an exam), so it is critical you work hard at making your points clear and easy to follow. The same applies for a lab exercise: students will have the option of doing a lab report from your lab, so the instructions should be clear, easy to follow, and allow generation of sufficient data for analysis within a single lab period (if you have something in mind that might take more than one lab period to complete, see me so that we can discuss it).

Your lecture/lab will be worth 50 points and will be evaluated for both content and clarity of presentation.

2. Current literature review: Beginning Friday, January 20, you must submit a ~ 1 page summary of an article from the scientific literature that relates to topics discussed during the previous week's lectures. This summary should describe the basic points of the paper (IN YOUR OWN WORDS, a summary does not consist of lifting phrases directly from the paper itself) and how it relates to the issues covered in class. Ideally, most of these papers should be up-to-date, i.e., published within the last 18 months. However, if you want to use something older, check with me prior to submission to make sure it is acceptable. In all cases, you must provide the full bibliographic citation for the paper you are summarizing.

Each summary is worth 10 points. You will have 10 of these to turn in, one on each of the following dates:

1. January 20
2. January 27
3. February 3
4. February 10
5. February 24
6. March 3
7. March 10

8. March 24
9. April 7
10. April 14

Because of these additional requirements, graduate student grades will be based on a total of 650 points, with grades distributed according to the following percentages:

- A = 585 - 650
- B = 520 - 584
- C = 455 - 519
- D = 390 - 454

There will be no adjustments to these cut-offs (i.e., they will not be curved).