

BIOC90 Course Syllabus – Winter 2021 Integrative Multimedia Documentary Project

The Admin Team:

Course Instructor: Dr. Jeneni Thiagavel [jeneni.thiagavel@utoronto.ca]

Course Supervisor: Dr. Rachel Sturge [rachel.sturge@utoronto.ca]

**Please note: Dr. Thiagavel will be your main point of contact in BIOC90

Course Website: The main source of information for BIOC90 is the Quercus course page

Program Requirement:

Students must complete BIOC90 as a program requirement in order to graduate if they are enrolled in the most recent versions of programs.

It is up to students to decide when to enroll in BIOC90 (i.e. they do NOT need to take C90 this term), but please note that if students wait to enroll in C90 after completing all eligible C-level courses, they will still need to complete the project but will not be able to benefit from the grade earned.

To check whether BIOC90 is a degree requirement, students should consult degree explorer. Note: students who enrolled in programs prior to summer 2021 will most likely not need to take BIOC90, but can choose to do so and can benefit from the grade earned by applying it to one of the relevant C-levels.

Course Objective:

Students will work in groups to produce a documentary-style narrative [i.e. a 5-minute video] that relays scientific evidence on a topic of interest from one or more of the relevant C-level courses to a lay audience. This project needs to incorporate the perspectives from at least two of the C-level biology courses your group members are enrolled in.

The video should:

- Communicate research findings to a lay audience
- Distill interesting results from primary literature (focus of video)
- Create a story line that would capture the interest of the public
- Consider including (brief) interview clips

Please note that this project will be completed as a group. Groups will be randomly assigned.

Evaluation:

Your final grade for this project will be based on both

- (i) The final product (video & script)
- (ii) A series of tasks that must be completed along the way

The entire project will be worth 10%. Students taking BIO90 this Winter, will be able to apply the 10% to any **ONE** of the following courses (even if they are enrolled in more than one of these):

Participating C-level Courses in Winter 2021:

| | | |
|--------|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| BIOC14 | Genes, Environment & Behaviour | Dr. Patrick McGowan |
| BIOC34 | Human Physiology II | Dr. Stephen Reid |
| BIOC39 | Immunology | Dr. Fraser Soares |

Using (i) this course syllabus and (ii) the information session held by the C90 course instructor covering the details of the project, students will need to decide whether they'd like to take BIO90 this Winter.

-Taking BIO90 this Winter: the student must enroll in it on ACORN. This must be done **by the course add/drop date**

-Not taking BIO90 this Winter: no action is required

Significance of the Project

Future scientists should be able communicate with the public, given the importance of public opinion and support for the future of fundamental biological research. Media sharing platforms such as YouTube and Instagram are now important ways in which scientists share the work that they do, and being able to convert scientific research into a format that the public can understand is an essential skill that scientists need to develop. In this project, students can use video as a medium to develop and practice communicating ideas to a broad audience.

The topics will be available on the BIO90 Quercus page

Learning Outcomes

At the end of this project, students should be able to:

1. Critically analyze scientific evidence and formulate logical, scientific arguments
2. Mine, dissect and cite published scientific literature to support reasoning
3. Employ effective oral communication to engage a broad audience
4. Collaborate effectively with team members in all aspects of this project
5. Integrate ideas across sub-disciplines of biology to articulate a problem or concept

Frequently Asked Questions:

<https://www.utoronto.ca/biosci/faq-biob90h3bioc90h3>

Office Hours:

The course instructor will hold appointment-based office hours every Wednesday.

Each group can schedule a meeting by emailing the course instructor for a group one-on-one.

These meetings will be held virtually on Bb Collaborate. Please ensure that you have a working webcam and microphone for these meetings.

Course Schedule

Week 1 & Week 2 – Understand Expectations

- (i) Students access the BIOC90 Course Syllabus
- (ii) Students watch the information session posted by the course instructor
- (iii) Students decide whether they want to take BIOC90 this Winter
- (iv) Interested students should enroll in BIOC90 on Acorn before the course add/drop date

Week 3 – Team up & Plan

- (i) Students are grouped into teams (by the EdTech team)
- (ii) Students e-meet their group members to discuss possible topics and titles for their video
- (iii) Complete and submit the ‘Team Planning Worksheet’ [under Modules]

Group Submission of (iii) due: By 11:59pm on Sunday January 31st

Graded by the course instructor, for completion only [10% of assignment grade]

Week 4 – Topic Selection

- (i) Teams meet to finalize topic and title, and write a brief summary of overall plan
- (ii) Complete and submit this summary on Quercus, under Modules [‘Topic Selection’]

Group Submission of (ii) due: By 11:59pm on Sunday February 7th

Graded by the course instructor, for completion only [10% of assignment grade]

Week 5 & Week 6 [Reading Week] – Work on Video Outline

(i) Read the guides on citing images and videos – Available here:
<https://guides.library.utoronto.ca/BIOC90>

Additional citation information can be found on the C90 Quercus Page, Under Modules [“Guide on Citing Images & Videos”]

(ii) Complete ‘Citation Quiz’ – will be available on C90 Quercus Page, under Modules

Individual Submission of (ii) due: By 11:59pm on Sunday February 14th

*Graded by the course instructor, for completion only [10% of assignment grade].
Please note: you must pass this quiz in order to proceed. Multiple attempts will be provided.*

(iii) Create an annotated bibliography showing the research for their project. Submit annotated bibliography through Quercus [Assignment Submission]

(iv) Complete an overall outline that includes a summary of the information that will be covered in video. For example:

- Storyboard
- Visuals
- Complete draft script for video narration
- Timeline of video: a plan for how the 5 minutes will be used
- Sample interview questions if an interview is planned
- Interviewees that have been identified by the group

In the information session posted by the course instructor, more details about this task will be provided to you.

Further, on the C90 Quercus Page, Under Modules, a guideline & some examples of storyboards will be posted [“Storyboard Guideline & Examples”].

Submit Video Outline through Quercus [Assignment Submission]

Group submission of (iii) & (iv) due: By 11:59pm on Sunday February 21st

Graded by the course instructor, for completion only [20% of assignment grade]. You will receive detailed feedback from the course instructor within 1 week of submitting your outline.

(v) Submit ‘Health Check-In’ [Under Modules]

Individual submission of (v) due: By 11:59pm on Sunday February 21st

Graded by the course instructor, for completion only

Week 7-10 -Work on Video

- (i) Use the feedback you received from the course instructor and work on your final video product

Under Modules 'Video Production Guidelines' have been posted which (includes a list of free software)

For those students including interview clips as part of their final video product, the following have been posted under Modules:

1. Interview Guidelines
2. Interview Consent Forms (**required for final video to be graded**)

- (ii) Submit 'Health Check-In' [under Modules]

Individual Submission of (ii) due: By 11:59pm on Sunday March 21st

Graded by the course instructor, for completion only

Week 11 - Submit Video Documentary

Student groups must submit:

- (i) Final video [submit through Quercus [Assignment Submission] **and**

- (ii) Final version of the entire script used to narrate the videos – submit through Quercus [Turnitin Assignment Submission]

Group Submissions of (i) & (ii) due: By 11:59pm on Sunday March 28th

Graded by the course instructor [50% of assignment grade]

- (iii) Submit Group Participation Evaluation

Students will all start with the 10%. From this, grades will be deducted for students that did not participate fully/groups that experienced a lot of issues.

- (iv) Submit Post-C90 Survey

- (v) Submit 'Grade Application Form' - Here, you select which C-level course you want your BIOC90 grade to count towards.

Individual Submission of (iii-v) due: By 11:59pm on Sunday March 28th

Information Session – Posted by Course Instructor:

It is highly recommended that you watch the information session posted by the course instructor (under Modules). Here, you will get more information on how to produce a good video documentary, how these videos will be graded, etc.

Everything you will need to complete the deadlines will be under 'Modules' on the BIOC90 Quercus page. Each week, the course instructor will be post announcements to remind you of the upcoming deadline(s) for that week