BIOC90 Course Syllabus – Fall 2021
Integrative Multimedia Documentary Project

Course Description

I'm super excited to welcome you to BIOC90 this term! It's a fun project where you'll get to make a 5-minute video about a topic of your choice to lay audience. By the end of the course, I hope to help you acquire the very important skill of being able to communicate science in a way that the lay public can understand and appreciate!

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

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

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

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. Students who do not need to take BIOC90 for their degree can still 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.

I go over the project in detail in the information session (uploaded as a pre-recording).

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 BIOC90 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 Fall 2021:

BIOC12   Biochemistry I
BIOC20   Principles of Virology
BIOC32   Human Physiology I
BIOC61   Community Ecology & Environ. Biology

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 BIOC90 this Winter.

   -Taking BIOC90 this Fall: the student must enroll in it on ACORN. This must be done **by the course add/drop date**

   -Not taking BIOC90 this Fall: 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 BIOC90 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.utsc.utoronto.ca/biosci/faq-biob90h3bioc90h3

Office Hours:

Please reach out! I love hearing from you. You can contact me at any point throughout the course at jeneni.thiagavel@utoronto.ca. I'll be more than happy to answer any questions you may have and to offer help with the project at any step along the way! Please do not contact the instructors of the C-level courses associated with this project to ask questions about this project.

I will hold appointment-based office hours every Friday. Each group can schedule a meeting by emailing the course instructor for a group one-on-one.

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

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

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

[NOTE: Because students can still add courses until the start of Week 3, some members may leave your group (because they decide to drop this project) and new members may join your group (because they decide to add this project). There are no group deadlines until after the deadline to add courses has passed.]

Week 3 – Team up & Plan

(i) Students are grouped (randomly) into teams *If you are unable to contact any of your group members, please let me know immediately.*

(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 September 26th

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 October 3rd

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

Week 5 & 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 October 10th

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 October 17th

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 October 17th
Graded by the course instructor, for completion only

Week 6

You will receive feedback on your draft from the instructor by the end of this week.

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 November 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 [via Ouriginal (Plagiarism detection tool)]

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