BILD 87: Introduction to Biological Sciences Research

Jan 5, 12, 19, 26 & Feb 2 &9 from 5:30-6:50 pm in the Biomedical Library Computer Classroom

Instructors
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Seminar Goals
You will be able to demonstrate that you are information literate by being able to identify, locate, critically evaluate, and use information effectively and ethically. Specifically, this seminar will help you:

- Understand the purpose of research
- Learn how to identify research opportunities at UCSD
- Understand the way scientific information is organized and presented
- Find and ethically use information for research

Seminar Objectives
At the end of this seminar, you will be able to:

Identify Opportunities
- Identify research opportunities at UCSD

Find information about a topic using research tools
- Develop an appropriate search strategy in order to do a survey of primary and secondary resources to see where your topic “fits” into the body of research.
- Use appropriate databases for your topic in order to find relevant books, journal articles, etc. for your topic.
- Evaluate the information you find based on relevance to your research topic, accuracy of research and authority and objectivity of the authors.

Connect with researchers
- Identify key researchers in your research area using tools such as blogs, social networking sites, etc. in order to connect with them and learn about bleeding edge research.

Organize your thoughts and write about your research findings
- Paraphrase and summarize a research article in order to avoid plagiarism
- Discuss the ethical and intellectual issues related to doing research.
- Use web tools such as blogs and discussion boards to deliver information and express ideas.
- Identify parts of a paper in order to be able to effectively read and write your own research article.
- Create a detailed outline for an article to be submitted to the Saltman Quarterly.
Seminar Web Page
Seminar information and assignments will be available at http://ucsd.libguides.com/bild87.

Recommended Readings
Readings are not required unless specified in class. All texts are on reserve at the Biomedical Library. You can request them at the front desk by call number, which can be found using the library’s course reserves system (http://bit.ly/ucsdreserves). Recommended readings are included in the Weekly Outline and are most useful when read before class.

Attendance & Participation
Consistent attendance reflects professional behavior and it is expected that you attend class on a regular basis. Participation (in class and online) is essential and will help you get the most out of this seminar. Attendance and Participation is worth 60 points of your total grade. In the event of an emergency or illness, you should notify the instructors. You are responsible for all missed course content and assignments.

Seminar Policies
To ensure fairness to all students, the following polices will be strictly adhered to:

- All assignments must be submitted in-class or online (if applicable) on the dates listed in the syllabus. Changes in due dates and exams can only be initiated by the instructor. If you know that you won’t be in class when an assignment is due, please contact the instructors in advance to discuss your options. You can always turn in your assignments early without penalty. If you cannot meet an assignment deadline, you may still turn it in, but it will be reduced by five points for each day it is late.
- The classroom is equipped with computers that you may use. Be sure to bring a USB flash drive if you would like to take files with you out of the classroom. If you prefer, you may also bring your laptop to class.
- Cell phones must be turned off or turned to silent during class. If your cell phone repeatedly disturbs class, the instructor may take your phone for the reminder of the class and return it to you at the end.
- While in class please remove your headphones unless you are using them in conjunction with adaptive learning devices.
- All assignments will be turned in electronically, unless otherwise noted. See assignment descriptions for additional instructions.
- Literacy, legibility, grammar, spelling, and punctuation will be considered in grading.
- Grades will be changed only under exceptional circumstances as determined by the instructors.

Emergencies
Should you be unable to meet an assignment deadline due to an exceptional, unanticipated and uncontrollable emergency, you must:

1. Contact the instructors as soon as possible to make arrangements to submit an assignment.
2. Submit a hard copy of documentation of the emergency as soon as possible, but no later than the last day of class.
It is your responsibility to initiate contact with the instructors. Exceptional, unanticipated, and uncontrollable emergencies include documented serious illness or injury and/or documented death in your immediate family. They are not: personal reasons (wedding, family events, etc.), work or school conflicts, regular medical appointments, forgetting, technology failures (printers, computers, car breaking down, missing busses, etc.), or just being too busy.

**University Academic Integrity Policy**

All work submitted in this course must be your own and produced exclusively for this course. Students are expected to complete all assignments on their own unless otherwise specified (i.e. Faculty Interview assignment). You must acknowledge and document the ideas and words of others. The presentation of un-cited or un-acknowledge material acquired from any source—written, verbal, online—is defined as plagiarism. Violations are taken seriously and are noted on student disciplinary records. Please consult the instructors if you have more specific questions about the definition of plagiarism.


**Policy on Accommodating Disabilities**

If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please let the instructors know during the first week of the seminar. Please request that the Counselor from the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) send an e-mail or letter verifying your disability. For more information about OSD you can visit their web page ([http://www.ucsd.edu/current-students/_organizations/osd/index.html](http://www.ucsd.edu/current-students/_organizations/osd/index.html)) or call (858) 534-4382.

Disabilities may include (but are not limited to) neurological impairment; orthopedic impairment; traumatic brain injury; visual impairment; chronic medical conditions; emotional/psychological disabilities; hearing impairment; and learning disabilities.

**Grading**

This seminar is graded as Pass (P)/No Pass (NP). There are 200 points in this seminar. Your grade will be based on the following:

| Attendance & Participation (in-person and online) | 60 points |
| Research Topic Focusing Worksheet (in-class) | 10 points | Due Week 2 |
| Reflection 1 | 20 points | Due Week 2 |
| Explore a Database (in-class) | 10 points | Due Week 3 |
| Faculty Interviews | 30 points | Due Week 5 |
| *Saltman Quarterly* Outline & Reflection | 70 points | Due Week 10 |

Assignment descriptions and guidelines are included on the Seminar [web page](#).

**Issuance of an Incomplete Grade**

According to university policy, you may only receive an incomplete grade (I) for this seminar if you have serious health or other problems during the *last part of the class*. 
### Weekly Outline

This table provides an overview of the topics for each week, assignments, and recommended readings. Remember, recommended readings will be most useful if done *before class*. You will find assignment descriptions on the seminar web page.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic(s)</th>
<th>You will be able to:</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Recommended Readings</th>
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| **1 (Jan 5)**                                                            | • Identify research opportunities at UCSD for your topic.  
  • Understand the research process as an art, not a science.  
  • Develop an appropriate search strategy in order to do a survey of primary and secondary resources to see where your topic “fits” into the body of research. | Research Topic Focusing worksheet (Due in-class or Week 2)  
  Reflection 1 (Due Week 2)                                                                 | • Gillen Section 1                                                             |
| **2 (Jan 12)**                                                           | • Identify secondary and primary sources and explain how to use each in the research process.  
  • Identify and use appropriate databases for your topic in order to find relevant books, journal articles, etc. for your topic.  
  • Identify key researchers in your research area using tools such as blogs, social networking sites, etc. in order to connect with them and learn about bleeding edge research.  
  • Evaluate the information you find based on relevance to your research topic, accuracy of research and authority and objectivity of the authors. | Explore a Database worksheet (Due in-class or Week 3)  
  Begin working on Faculty Interview assignment (Due Week 5) | • Badke: Chapters 3, 5 and 6  
  • Gillen: Section 2  
  • Pechenik: Chapter 2 |
<p>| <strong>3 (Jan 19)</strong>                                                           | • Paraphrase and summarize a research article in order to avoid plagiarism | Continue working on Faculty Interview assignment (Due Week 5) | • Pechenik: Chapter. 3       |</p>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4 (Jan 26)</td>
<td>Discuss the ethical and intellectual issues related to doing research.</td>
<td>Complete Faculty Interview assignment (Due Week 5)</td>
<td>Gillen: Sections 3-8</td>
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<td>Hall: Chapters 1-7</td>
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<td>5 (Feb 2)</td>
<td>Making connections</td>
<td>Begin working on final assignment: Saltman Quarterly Outline &amp; Reflection (Due Week 10)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Anatomy of a paper</td>
<td></td>
<td>Pechenik, “Checklist for the final draft” (p. 218-221)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 (Feb 9)</td>
<td>Pulling it all together</td>
<td>Complete final assignment: Saltman Quarterly Outline &amp; Reflection (Due Week 10)</td>
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