This is a sample syllabus only.
The instructor may make changes to the syllabus in future courses

BY499/BY699/BY799 – Seminar in Genetics/Genomics
Spring 2012  Campbell Hall 274

INSTRUCTOR:  Dr. Shahid Mukhtar
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Office Hours: by appointment

Course objectives: This seminar is designed to refine and extend your fluency (both verbal and written) in genetic concepts and techniques. Through the dissection of research papers on diverse genetics/genomics aspects, you will understand the experimental approaches that are appropriate under different conditions, and you will learn to think critically about experimental design. You will devise and propose hypothetical experiments to address unanswered questions in genetics/genomics. You will appreciate the peer review process through critiquing the peer-reviewed papers presented by other students.

Grade: Your final grade for the course will be calculated as follows:

Presentation of your selected paper: 60 points
Written summary evaluation of your selected paper: 25 points
Written comments on the presentations of the other members of class: 10 points
General Participation: 5 points

Presentation format: You will give one 30 minutes long formal presentation during the semester on a research paper of your choice. No two students can choose the same topic, so clear your topic with me early to get first dibs on it. Background information on the topic should take up about 10 minutes of your presentation. Analysis of an original research paper should take up the 15 minutes. Leave five minutes for questions/critiques. I must approve your research paper choice and you must send the pdf of selected paper along with written summary of your selected paper to me at least two weeks before your presentation. I will send the pdf of your research article to all students so that they can get an idea of your topic. The breakdown of score for presentation (out of 60 points) is as follows: background section, 20 points; explanation of research paper, 30 points; fielding questions from audience, 5 points; effectiveness of presentation method (powerpoint, animation, video/movies, cartoons etc.), 5 points.
**Attendance and Participation:** Since this seminar meets only once a week, your attendance is essential except genuine excuses. 5% of your score depends upon your attendance and general participation.

**Conduct:** The use of cellular phones and other mobile devices during class is also disruptive and disrespectful to your fellow classmates and instructor. Therefore, all electronic devices must be either turned off or on vibrate during class. You will be asked to leave if your ringtone sounds in class or you are observed talking on the phone or texting during class. If you have an emergency and must take a call - be polite and go outside.

**Severe/Inclement Weather:** There will be no class if the campus is closed during normal class time. The topic for that day will be discussed during the following class session. During inclement weather please check the UAB main page (www.uab.edu) or WBHM (90.3 FM) or call WBHM (934-2606) or the UAB Bad Weather Hotline (934-2165) to determine if campus is closed.

Students who require special assistance can contact the office of Disability Support Services to obtain appropriate documentation. In order to register with the office of Disability Support Services you may go to HUC Rm 516 or call 934-4205. For more information check DSS main page (http://main.uab.edu/Sites/students/services/disability-support/).