

Biological Literature and Communication
BIOL 4700 – Fall 2013, Rm Wolfe Hall 1240
Dr. Maria Diakonova
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Office Hours: by appointment

Course Description: **Cancer and Infection**

One of the objectives of this course is to acquaint students with the methods and processes used by the scientific community to communicate, evaluate findings, and develop a consensus on basic concepts. Our discussions will focus on the link between infective agents and the most common cancers. Ethics in scientific research and writing will also be addressed.

This is a writing/discussion-based class that requires class attendance and class participation. Selected papers from the scientific literature will be assigned and covered in-depth during class - students are expected to be prepared and have completed reading assignments prior to each class. In addition, each student will write an 8-10 page term paper and prepare a 15-minute oral presentation on an approved topic. Detailed instructions for the preparation of the Term paper and Oral presentation will be provided in class.

Grade Calculation:

	<u>% of grade</u>
Class Participation	20
Attendance (days present/class period)	20
Term Paper <u>(Due November 18)</u>	20
Oral Presentation <u>(November 25- December 9)</u>	20
Class Assignments	20

Important Dates:

Sep 9	Must have an approved topic by this date
Oct 9	Outline for Term paper due (1 page <u>with references</u>)
Oct 23	Rough draft of Term paper due (4-5 pages)
<u>TBA</u>	<u>Biology Field Tests (required)</u>
Nov 18	Term paper due (8-10 pages)
Nov 25	Oral presentations begin

Student Evaluation:

Grades will be determined based upon student class performance and class tests. Grades will be letter-based and will utilize a straight scale (see below) unless overall class performance dictates use of a curve.

A = 93-100%
A- = 90-92%
B+ = 87-89%
B = 83-86%

B- = 80-82%
C+ = 77-79%
C = 73-76%
C- = 70-72%
D+ = 67-69%
D = 63-66%
D- = 60-62%