

Syllabus w-class topics and expectations

BILD 87: Freshman Seminar

Life Sciences Research at UCSD: Exploring the Landscape


Wed. 11:00-11:50am in AP&M 3880

Course description: This seminar is for Biology majors interested in participating in research. We will choose a handful of UCSD faculty research programs in the life sciences to explore based on your interests, hear from advanced undergraduates about their roles and experiences with research, and discuss pathways to undergraduate research involvement at UCSD.

Instructor: Prof. Laurie G. Smith (she/her; lgsmith@ucsd.edu)

Office hours: by appointment (see below under class expectations)

Grading is P/NP only. The following are required for a grade of P:

- Attendance at 8/9 class meetings unless you enrolled late, or special circumstances arise such as illness or family emergency. In that case, you must email the instructor explaining the circumstances and request an excused absence within 24 hrs of the missed class.
- Submission of all pre-class assignments/quizzes (due every week on Sunday 11:59pm beginning April 9, except May 28). These will involve answering simple questions about assigned readings (typically faculty websites describing their research) and/or findings from your independent investigation of research opportunities as assigned
- Active participation in our in-class assignments when you are in attendance
- Attendance at one, 20 minute private office hour with the instructor (book appointment at <https://lgsmithappointment-with-laurie-smith.appointlet.com/b/laurie-smith>  (<https://lgsmithappointment-with-laurie-smith.appointlet.com/b/laurie-smith>); join me at the appointment time in this Zoom room: 414 855 2767). Come prepared to discuss your interests and concerns as a UCSD student! You are welcome to make additional appointments as well.
- Submission of the text for an email requesting a research opportunity to a UCSD faculty member of your choice, following guidelines for such messages we will discuss toward the end of the quarter (due Sun. May 28 11:59pm on Canvas)

Class Topics

Mon. Apr. 3: Interview and introduce a classmate; introduction to faculty websites

Mon Apr. 10: undergraduate student visitor Melissa Guereca; Alistair Russell lab (immune responses to viruses)

Mon. Apr. 17: masters student visitors Priscilla Yao and Yi Chia Liu; John Chang lab (immune system development)

Mon. Apr. 24 on Zoom: modes of undergraduate research involvement (L. Smith)

Mon. May 1: Frankie Massa, undergraduate student visitor from Kay Tye lab at Salk (neural circuits underlying motivated behaviors)

Mon. May 8: Brooke Johnson, undergraduate student visitor from Fabian Rivera-Chavez lab (cholera)

Mon. May 15: Writing an effective email to prospect research mentors (L. Smith)

Mon. May 22: masters student visitor Nancy Lin from Hiruy Meharena/DevCoGx Lab (brain development in relation to cognition and neurological disorders)

Mon. May 29: Memorial Day (no class)

Mon. June 5: feedback on (anonymized) email submissions requesting research opportunities