

EEB 507 – 2nd & 4th Year Grad Student Presentations – Spring 2023

Course Organizers: Drs. Mike Gilchrist (mikeg@utk.edu) and Mike Blum (mblum@utk.edu)

Meetings:

Fridays, 10:20 – 11:10 am (in person)

- Discussion, workshops, and talks. All enrolled students are expected to attend.

Monday, 10:20 – 11:10 am (in person or online, and only relevant to a subset of students any given week)

- Team meetings prior to a team member's presentation
- Only students whose team member is presenting are *required* to attend.
- Meetings can be scheduled for a different time if need be.
- Given there are two talks/week during the presentation period, you should expect to meet on M for ~1/2 of these weeks.

Course Structure: In person with Zoom feeds for presentations.

<https://tennessee.zoom.us/j/91674290664> with password: 2&4Seminar

The course will convene in person on Fridays and either in person or online on Mondays. Because students may not be able to attend in person due to illness or health-related precautions, in-person meetings will be conducted concurrently with a synchronous Zoom meeting. Students may elect to participate via Zoom to accommodate health-related concerns or precautions. Recordings of Zoom meetings will be made available online.

Objectives:

The primary purpose is to give 2nd & 4th year graduate students an opportunity to improve their presentation development and delivery skills through faculty guided peer to peer interactions. In addition, the course allows students to share their research interests and progress with the department in a relatively relaxed atmosphere. Giving a good research talk is a very important skill and this course is an important opportunity to hone your abilities further.

Format (see schedule below):

Students have been placed into teams of 4-5 students to provide feedback to each other on talk construction & presentation. Team names and members are listed at the end of the syllabus.

The first week of the semester there will be no meeting due to graduate student recruitment activities. From weeks 2 to 4, we will meet only on Fridays. During the second week we will discuss best practice for how to organize your talk and slides. During the third and fourth weeks we will discuss in teams and as a class a publicly available talk from the 'Evolution' (SSE/SSB/SAN) and 'Ecology' (ESA) meetings. (Students are welcome to suggest to the instructors potential talks to view). In the interest of time, students will be expected to view these talks prior to the relevant class meetings.

From week 5 onward, there will be team reviews of the upcoming talks on M as well as the presentations on Friday. 4th year students will present during weeks 5 - 9, 2nd year students during weeks 10 – 15. Students can sign up for a slot starting at **noon**, F Feb 3rd at:

tiny.utk.edu/EEB507-SignUp. To avoid the need for a team to review two presentations in one week, students are expected to coordinate such that no more than one team member presents in a given week.

Presentations should be prepared as if they were to be given at a national meeting, with 12-13 minutes per presentation, followed by 2-3 minutes for questions. However, unlike most national meetings you will have someone from your team to introduce you. Each talk will be recorded and the resulting video made available ONLY TO THE STUDENT.

Presenter Expectations

Each student will prepare a talk using the following steps:

1. Thursday, 5pm a week prior to your talk:
 - Email Lisa Stalnaker at eeb@utk.edu
 - Your talk title and abstract
 - A photo or figure to accompany the announcement for your talk
1. Friday, 5pm a week prior to your talk:
 - Submit via Canvas a completed “Claims, Subclaims, and Evidence” worksheet or detailed outline as approved by your advisor.
2. Monday of your practice talk
 - Submit PDF version of your talk through Canvas by 8:00am
 - Meet with teammates and one of the instructors to go over the talk & slides and get feedback for revising presentation.
3. Friday morning: Give presentation to the department.
4. Friday, 5pm: Fill out speaker evaluation form for yourself.
5. Thursday after talk, 5pm.
 - Presenters are expected to review student comments
 - Watch video of their presentation
 - Write a short (2-3 paragraph) summary of what you believe you did well and what could be improved upon. Be sure to address whether your initial evaluation of your talk submitted on Friday changed based on your peers’ feedback?

Audience Expectations

1. M 10:20: Attend talk review of teammate if applicable
2. F 5pm:
 - Complete peer evaluation for for each speaker to provide anonymous and constructive feedback about what did and didn’t work well.
 - These forms will be available as a quiz on Canvas after each meeting.

Attendance:

Attendance at *all* class meetings is expected. Attendance and participation in team meetings to workshop talks is expected. Student's are allowed 2 absences from the Friday presentations without penalty, each additional absence will reduce the student grade one grade (i.e. Three absences result in an A being lowered to an A-, four absences result in a B+, etc). Given the team centered nature of the course, excluding extraordinary circumstances, no absences without prior instructor approval will be allowed for the first three Friday meetings or any of the team meetings. Unexcused team absence will result in the student's grade dropping an entire letter grade (i.e. One absence results in an A being lowered to a B).

Accommodations

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, is committed to providing an inclusive learning environment for all students. If you anticipate or experience a barrier in this course due to a chronic health condition, a learning, hearing, neurological, mental health, vision, physical, or other kind of disability, or a temporary injury, you are encouraged to contact Student Disability Services (SDS) at 865-974-6087 or sds@utk.edu. An SDS Coordinator will meet with you to develop a plan to ensure you have equitable access to this course. If you are already registered with SDS, please contact the course instructors to discuss implementing accommodations included in your course access letter.

Evaluation & grades:

You will be evaluated based on attendance, participation during talk reviews, and submission of the relevant forms. Participation in your team reviews is a critical component of the course. You will not receive a specific grade for your presentation. The performance of students who meet the attendance requirements, actively participate, and submit their forms in a timely manner will be evaluated as "Outstanding" (A).

Student Teams

Anning	Darwin	Carson	Wright
Caitlin Barnes	Julia Bugler	Erika Dalliance	Tara Empson
Espinoza Zaavian	Django Grootmyers	Wieteke Holthuijzen	Ashlynn Hord
Brian Oye	Nicholas Smith	Guido Herrera-Rodriguez	Nate Gibson
Sarah Love	Amy Lou	Eric Shershen	Sophia Turner
Maryrose Weatherton	Hyun Yoon		

Schedule

Week	Date	
1	Jan 27	No Meeting: Visiting Candidate Graduate Student

2	Feb 03	Course Overview and Best Practices
3	Feb 10	Team & Class Discussion of Example Talks
4	Feb 17	Team & Class Discussion of Example Talks
5	Feb 24	4th Year Presentations
6	Mar 03	4th Year Presentations
7	Mar 10	4th Year Presentations
8	Mar 17	No Class – Spring Break
9	Mar 24	4th Year Presentations
10	Mar 31	2nd Year Presentations
11	Apr 07	2nd Year Presentations
12	Apr 14	No Class – Spring Recess
13	Apr 21	2nd Year Presentations
14	Apr 28	2nd Year Presentations
15	May 05	2nd Year Presentations