BIOLOGY 447 Honours Colloquium 2005 – Schedule of Activities

All readings are from the required book: A short guide to writing about biology. Jan. A. Penchanik

Week	In Class Activity	Assignment Due
1 . Sept. 8	**Introductions:** Name / Contact / Project; Course Expectations, Course objectives and other 'business' items. Schedule Talks (wks 4/5) & Science News Updates Dept. Seminar Info / Locations of Theses. Visit from Previous 447 students and discussion Heads Up on Grad Issues **Guests (447 Alumni):**	**Choose theses for evaluation** **Reading:** **Chapter 10** **Chapter 13** **Chapter 15**
2. Sept. 15	**Graduate School Application Process:** I: What is grad school like – visit from current grad students? II: Funding NSERC / CIHR applications: - Visit from BOT / ZOOL grad committee reps III: How to locate / contact a research supervisor - Visit from various BOT / ZOOL faculty members **Guest Faculty:**	**News and Views (N & V)** **Reading:** **Chapter 14**
3. Sept. 22	**Public Speaking and Seminars:** Discussion of seminar reviews A primer on public speaking (Tortell / Berger)	**N & V** **Seminar Evaluations**
4. Sept. 29	**Student Research Talks I:** (no News and Views) Group discussion and evaluation after each presentation	**Preliminary Project Time-line**
5. Oct. 6	**Student Research Talks II:** (no News and Views) Group discussion and evaluation after each presentation	**Reading:** **Chapter 9**
6. Oct. 13	**Thesis writing** (Tortell / Berger) Discussion of Thesis evaluations Guidelines for introductions	**N & V** **Thesis Evaluations**
7. Oct. 20	**Oral Exams Discussion and Tactics** - visit from recent chairs of undergrad thesis defences	**N & V**
8. Oct. 27	**Mock Exams I**	**N & V** **Annotated Bibliography**
9.	**Mock Exams II:**	**N & V**

Nov. 3		
10. Nov. 10	**Remembrance Day – University Closed**	
11. Nov. 17	**Mock Exams III:**	**N & V Materials and Methods Section**
12. Nov. 24	**Mock Exams IV :** Comparison of original and revised time-lines. What can we learn about the pace of science?	**N & V Updated Time-line;**
13. Dec. 1	Party with BIOL 337	**First Draft Introduction**

Notes:

Discussion of topical science news from Science and Nature – A short (5-10 min) presentation of a recent finding published in the scientific literature. The idea is to distil the key findings and context of a study and present it in a manner intelligible to the non-specialist.

Seminar and Thesis Evaluations – Students will prepare reviews (~ 2 pages) critiquing seminars and theses, addressing some point form questions.

Mock Exam – Students give a short presentation of their on-going (or hypothetical) thesis work and are then examined by their peers. Examinees will submit a list of questions that they think people will ask them, and then compare this list against the actual questions that were asked during the exam. All students are expected to participate in the questioning phase of the exams. In this way, students get the experience of serving on an examining committee, and learn how to develop lines of questioning.

Marking Scheme:

Class Participation: 30%
Oral Presenatations: 20%
Thesis & Seminar Reviews: 20%
Thesis Section writing: 30%