

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Spring and Fall

TOX 689 Current Topics in Toxicology

Credit R

Arranged: Fall and Spring

Instructor: Aileen Keating, 2356J Kildee Hall, 294-3849, akeating@iastate.edu Please contact the instructor via email or phone to set up any appointments.

For additional information on TOX 689 see: <http://www.toxicology.iastate.edu/toxsmr.html>

Lecture and discussion participation on current topics in Toxicology.

Grade (S/F): An 80% attendance is expected to satisfactorily complete the course. Students may substitute attendance at regional and national conferences held during the same semester *in lieu* of one class period per conference.

The learning outcomes of this course are to:

- Develop habits of thinking important for a toxicologist
- Communicate toxicology research effectively to professionals in the field
- Synthesize accurate and up-to-date views of topics in toxicology research
- Critically assess toxicology literature and research needs
- Encourage students to learn about, analyze, and problem solve research questions outside of their area of research
- Evaluate peer presentations
 - Peer presentation forms can be found here: <http://www.toxicology.iastate.edu/speakereval.pdf>

Factors to consider when evaluating peer presentations.

INTRODUCTION: Describe:

Relevant background information.

The knowns, unknowns and the gap(s) your work will fill.

The approaches you are taking.

The significance: Why is it important? Why should the audience listen to you?

ORGANIZATION: Logical flow
Background/Rationale
Hypothesis and/or Specific Aims
Experimental Approach/Methods
Experimental Results/Significance
Future experiments/Applications

CLARITY:

Can the audience follow you?

How clear are the answers to why/what/how/where?

Do not use lab lingo. Be precise, define the terminology and avoid abbreviations.

Seminar should be understandable to those outside the immediate field.

DATA EVALUATION:

Audience should understand how results are used to answer questions posed. Statistical analyses should be included where appropriate.

SEMINAR SUMMARY: The “take home” message.

Recap major findings and indicate how they answer the initial questions asked. Indicate significance/future directions/applications.

SCIENTIFIC EVALUATION:

Is the research scientifically sound?
Is the hypothesis reasonable?
Will the experimental design address the hypothesis?
Are there appropriate controls?
Are the conclusions justified by the data?

GIVE PROPER CREDIT

Recognize your collaborators and funding sources.

VISUAL AIDS

DO: Simplify graphics; one concept per slide; use cartoons; have large fonts; label gels; include titles on each slide; avoid complex illustrations; provide references for published figures and diagrams; use transitions to help keep your audience aligned with the flow of your discussion.

DO NOT: use dark colors on a dark background (e.g. red on a blue background), yellow on a white background, small or elaborate fonts; complex tables or let visual aids detract from talk (i.e. colors/graphics/transitions/animations).

EYE CONTACT

Talk to several audience members, not the screen.

SPEAKING VOICE

Speak clearly, loudly and with enthusiasm.

PERSONAL APPEARANCE AND POSTURE

Dress professionally.
Stand upright (don't slouch).
Minimize body movements (avoid pacing and waving your hands around).

BEWARE OF TIME

Stay within time limits allotted for seminar.
Keep answers to questions brief and on point.

HANDLING QUESTIONS

Repeat questions asked from front of the room.
Keep questions brief and to the point - answer the question asked.
Don't be afraid to ask for clarification of question if you don't understand.
Don't be afraid to say "I don't know".

PREPARE AHEAD

Practice the talk several times.
If you are nervous about speaking, memorize an opening statement to get you started.

Academic Dishonesty

This class will follow Iowa State University's policy on academic dishonesty. Anyone suspected of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Dean of Students Office.

<http://www.dso.iastate.edu/ja/academic/misconduct.html>

Disability Accommodation

Iowa State University complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Sect 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If you have a disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please contact (instructor name) to set up a meeting within the first two weeks of the semester or as soon as you become aware of your need. Before meeting with (instructor name), you will need to obtain a SAAR form with recommendations for accommodations from the [Disability Resources Office](#), located in Room 1076 on the main floor of the Student Services Building. Their telephone number is 515-294-7220 or email disabilityresources@iastate.edu. Retroactive requests for accommodations will not be honored.

Dead Week

This class follows the Iowa State University Dead Week guidelines as outlined in

<http://catalog.iastate.edu/academiclife/#deadweek>

Harassment and Discrimination

Iowa State University strives to maintain our campus as a place of work and study for faculty, staff, and students that is free of all forms of prohibited discrimination and harassment based upon race, ethnicity, sex (including sexual assault), pregnancy, color, religion, national origin, physical or mental disability, age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, or status as a U.S. veteran. Any student who has concerns about such behavior should contact his/her instructor, [Student Assistance](#) at 515-294-1020 or email dso-sas@iastate.edu, or the [Office of Equal Opportunity and Compliance](#) at 515-294-7612.

Religious Accommodation

If an academic or work requirement conflicts with your religious practices and/or observances, you may request reasonable accommodations. Your request must be in writing, and your instructor or supervisor will review the request. You or your instructor may also seek assistance from the [Dean of Students Office](#) or the [Office of Equal Opportunity and Compliance](#).

Contact Information

If you are experiencing, or have experienced, a problem with any of the above issues, email academicissues@iastate.edu.