BIOL-UA 995 Becoming a Scientist

Instructor:
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Course Description:
Pursuing a scientific career is intellectually exciting and practically important to society. Succeeding in a scientific career is both an art and a science. Being successful requires intelligence and expertise in the laboratory, but equally important, it requires skills in scientific writing, oral communication, and ethics. In this course, “Becoming a Scientist”, undergraduate Biology majors who are conducting independent laboratory-based research projects will perform project-based learning through reading scientific papers, and through writing and oral communication of scientific results, while also gaining exposure to issues in scientific ethics and career paths. Each student will develop these skills using their honors thesis research project as a springboard. The course is divided into 5 modules: 1. Inspiring science and scientists, 2. Choosing your scientific problem, 3. Defining your scientific strategy (grant writing), 4. Honing your scientific communication skills, 5. Scientific ethics and career paths. The course is a mix of lecture, reading, writing, presentation and workshops.

Pre-requisite:
Independent Study (BIOL-UA 998).

Textbook and Required Materials:

Grading:
4 Presentations: 40%
4 Writing Assignments 30%
3 in class critiques/responses 20%
Class participation 10%

Topics:
Module 1.
Inspiring Science and Scientists
Module 2.
Identifying Your Scientific Inspiration and Question.
Module 3.
Defining your Scientific Strategy: Specific Aims
Module 4:
Communicating Your Science in Presentations
Module 5.
Scientific Ethics and Career Paths