

BIOLGR9031 Pre-Research Seminar (3 credits, Tier 1)

The Pre-Research Seminar (PRS) is a valuable opportunity to learn about the wide variety of exciting biology research at Columbia. Some talks will be given live, some on Zoom.

Course website

<https://courseworks.columbia.edu/>

The course page is set up to show the name of the speaker(s), title, and a link to a pdf of a relevant paper and explanatory statement if provided by the instructor.

You will also find information here about whether the session will be live or on Zoom.

Schedule

The schedule can be found on Courseworks.

Most classes feature one speaker and will begin at 6:10 and end at 6:55; there will be an approximately 40 minute research presentation followed by 5 minutes of Q&A.

Some classes have two speakers. On those days, there will be a break from 6:55-7:10 and the second talk will begin promptly at 7:10 and end at 7:55, again allowing for a 40 minute presentation and 5 minutes of Q&A. On those days, we will also provide

We will provide individual-serving snacks and bottles of water for anyone who may not have brought a refillable one on days when there are two speakers. You are free to bring more substantial sustenance.

Please be aware that there is no eating in the classroom itself.

Attendance and Grading

Class will be held in Fairchild 601. Grading is pass-fail, and based on attendance. *Classes will not be recorded.*

When classes are live, you are expected to attend live. When they are on Zoom, you may attend from elsewhere or choose to assemble in the classroom with your classmates while participating on your laptop or tablet.

Some instructors have not yet indicated whether they will lecture live or on Zoom. This information should be available a week ahead of time. For your planning purposes, if it says "live or Zoom," assume that class will be live and that in-person attendance will be expected.

If there is one live and one Zoom talk, you are expected to attend the live talk for full attendance credit.

You are allowed *two unexcused absences*, i.e. you can miss two classes for any reason, no questions asked. Attendance will be taken by sign-in sheet (live) or screenshot (Zoom). We will

assign one student per session to take attendance (and to be sure the snacks are brought into the classroom from a storage pantry on days when there are two speakers).

Covid absences. Please note that if you experience symptoms associated with Covid, do not come to the classroom; the associated absence(s) will be excused with documentation of a PCR test (even if the test is negative) or positive rapid test.

Other illnesses. If you have mild Covid symptoms and are negative on a rapid test and choose to come to class, please stay masked even if masking is not mandated as the rapid tests are not as accurate for assessing contagion for Omicron variants, not to mention that you do not want to spread other illnesses to your classmates either. If you have already used your two unexcused absences and need an additional excused absence for illness, please let Sarah know.

To explore the possibility of an excused absence for another reason, please contact Iva Greenwald at isg4@columbia.edu.

Covid policies

You will need to comply with all University Covid policies: <https://covid19.columbia.edu/>.

Through September, there is a classroom mask mandate; we encourage the use of masks even when the mandate has been lifted. Please consume snacks or food outside of the classroom at the break or after class.

The University policy is subject to change depending on conditions. You will be informed by the University if there is a change, and be expected to comply with any directives.

Disability accommodations

For any disability accommodations, you must contact [Disability Services](#) at 212-854-2388 and disability@columbia.edu.