

Columbia University - Department of Biological Sciences
UN1908 - First Year Seminar in Biology - Fall 2023

Thursdays 3pm-3:55pm, 601 Fairchild

Instructor: [Dr. Alice Heicklen](#)

This course gives you a chance to hear about the latest research being conducted by scientists at Columbia University. **Attendance at lectures is required, including the first lecture on 9/14.** After each lecture, you should write a summary of the talk (1/2 to 1 page, maximum) and email it (pasted into the body of your message) to Chanda Springer at cs2660@columbia.edu by the following Wednesday (6 days later) at 8am. Rewrite the notes you take during class into 1-2 coherent paragraphs.

September				October				November				December	
7	14	21	28	5	12	19	26	2	9	16	23	30	7

September 7	No Class
September 14	Dr. Laura Duvall , Department of Biological Sciences, Columbia University Getting Mosquitoes to Stop Biting
September 21	Dr. Stuart Firestein , Department of Biological Sciences, Columbia University Smell
September 28	Dr. Oliver Hobert , Department of Biological Sciences, Columbia University Determining which Type of Neuron to Become
October 5	Dr. Lars Dietrich , Department of Biological Sciences, Columbia University The Good and Bad of Bacteria
October 12	Dr. Samuel Sternberg , Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biophysics, CUIMC Editing the Code of Life with CRISPR
October 19	Dr. Jaewon Min , Department of Pathology & Cell Biology, CUIMC Chromosomes Count Time
October 26	Dr. Christine Iok In Chio , Department of Genetics & Development, CUIMC Pancreatic Cancer
November 2	Dr. Ishmail Abdus-Saboor , Department of Biological Sciences, Columbia University Perceiving Pain & Pleasure
November 9	Dr. Simon Tavaré , Department of Biological Sciences, Columbia University Cancer by the Numbers
November 16	Dr. Jonathan Javitch , Department of Psychiatry, CUIMC & NYSPI Opioids & Depression
November 23	Thanksgiving Holiday
November 30	Dr. Rolando Perez-Lorenzo , Department of Dermatology, CUIMC Hair Loss in the Age of Skin Cancer
December 7	Dr. John Hunt , Department of Biological Sciences, Columbia University Cystic Fibrosis

Grading

You must attend class, turn in your weekly summary on time and participate in class (ask at least two questions during the semester and participate in class activities) to maintain your grade. If you attend class but do not turn in a summary, this counts as if you missed the class. Everyone begins with an A. Every missed class decreases your grade one step: A to A-, A- to B+, etc. You can check the Grade Book in Canvas to verify that your assignments have been recorded. Recording of the grade in Canvas may take up to a week. Each assignment (attendance and summary) is worth 2 points. 2 points=submitted, 1 point=some issue, and 0 points=not submitted.