

PLNT 7420 ADVANCED PLANT S SCIENCE SEMINAR COURSE (2020-2021)

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Course Delivery: The course will be delivered on line- via Zoom. Students are expected to download the Zoom App (free) to participate to classes. Classes will be synchronous.

Class Objectives: Seminars are an important component of any interview process and valuable tools for disseminating scientific knowledge. Through the preparation and attendance of seminars and the development a research proposal students are encouraged to develop and improve both written and oral communication skills which will be essential for the continuation of their career.

Evaluation scheme: The course is graded on a pass/fail basis and has six essential components that need to be completed over the period of the Ph.D. program.

- 1) Critical review of presented seminars
- 2) Preparation of a research grant (based on NSERC Discovery Grants)
- 3) Presentation of thesis research in a departmental seminar
- 4) Attendance at meetings of PLNT 7420 class
- 5) Attendance at the seminars (a minimum of 80% required)
- 6) Active participation to the journal club

1. Critical review (to be completed during the first year of enrolment)

Students are responsible for preparing 6 critical reviews of seminars presented in the Advanced Plant Seminar series. Three (3) of them should be in areas not familiar and outside the student's research interest/expertise. The remaining three (3) might include reviews on seminars related to the student's research. The review should be no more than two typewritten pages and should be submitted NO LATER than a week after the presentation.

2. Preparation of a research grant proposal (to be completed BEFORE the final Dept. research seminar)

Following the NSERC guidelines (http://www.nserc.gc.ca/professors_e.asp?nav=profnav&lbi=a1) each student is responsible for submitting a research proposal on an area different from his/her research interest. An outline of the proposal should be presented to be for approval.

3. Departmental seminar presentation (to be completed by the end of the 3rd year)

Each student is required to present a formal 40-50 min presentation of his/her research to the Department. At least two weeks prior the presentation the student should practice the presentation at the journal club for feedbacks

4. Journal club (on-going)

Each student is supposed to find a review article relevant to plant science research. A list of presenters will be compiled prior to the first class, and each student will present his paper every week using a Power Point (30 min) presentation. The presentation will be followed by a discussion and each student in the class should prepare three open-ended questions to engage the discussion. Feedback on the quality of the presentation will be provided.