**CAMB 700: Topics in Microbiology (Spring 2021)**

**Directors: Sarah Henrickson, Kellie Jurado, Matthew Weitzman and Joseph Zackular**

**Class Time:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:00-4:30 PM from January 14 to April 1

**Remote access:** <https://bluejeans.com/371635195>

**Office Hour:** Rolling office hour for feedback from course directors on Thursdays, 5:00-6:00 PM

**Office Hour Link:** <https://bluejeans.com/480082263>

**Course Description:** This course is designed for second year students studying MVP program related projects, and focuses on grant writing and presentation skills in the scientific area of pathogen-host interactions. Introductory sessions address the role of story-telling in science communication and the use of schematics to convey the project. In subsequent classes students give presentations on a topic related to their research project or interests. We discuss how the project could be envisioned as an NIH style grant. Each student presentation should provide sufficient background, discuss what is known and what is not known about the topic, frame two or three Specific Aims for a potential grant application. We will also discuss potential experimental strategies to address the central hypothesis of the grant proposal. The discussions are deliberately wide-ranging, and review recent literature, techniques, and how to construct a presentation and grant. There are four course directors who provide a breadth of research areas and will provide feedback on the specific topic being discussed. Students will also have to reach out to an additional topic expert for review of their project design and presentation. The students will learn how to prepare, present, and defend a research topic, as well as to integrate positive and negative criticism into the development of a strong research direction.

**Course Evaluation:** The success of the course rests entirely upon the discussion quality and engagement of the faculty and students involved. Class participation is 100% of grade.

**Schedule:**

Jan 14: “In the beginning…” Course introduction with proposal hook and 2 minute elevator pitch

Jan 19: “Show me the science…” Strategies for grant writing and presentations

Jan 21: Round 1 Presentations 1+2:

Jan 26: Round 1 Presentations 3+4:

Jan 28: Round 1 Presentations 5+6:

Feb 2: Round 1 Presentations 7+8:

Feb 4: Round 1 Presentations 9+10:

Feb 9: Round 1 Presentations 11+12:

Feb 11: Round 1 Presentations 13+14:

Feb 16: Round 1 Presentations 15+16:

Feb 18: Round 1 Presentations 17+18:

Feb 23: Round 1 Presentations 19+X:

Feb 25: Round 2 Presentations 1+2

Mar 2: Round 2 Presentations 3+4:

Mar 4: Round 2 Presentations 5+6:

Mar 9: Round 2 Presentations 7+8:

Mar 11: Round 2 Presentations 9+10:

Mar 16: Round 2 Presentations 11+12:

Mar 18: Round 2 Presentations 13+14:

Mar 23: Round 2 Presentations 15+16:

Mar 25: Round 2 Presentations 17+18:

Mar 30: Round 2 Presentations 19+X:

Apr 1: Advice for prelim exam and presentation strategies