**Seminar in Toxicology (TOX 558)**

**January 7 – May 6, 2019**

**All classes held in K-307 (3-6408)**

**1:00 pm – 2:00 pm**

**Course Director: Lisa DeLouise, PhD**

Extension 5-1810

E-mail: Lisa\_DeLouise@urmc.rochester.edu

Please note that the guidelines for the upcoming TOX558class are as follows: This seminar is designed to give graduate students experience presenting scientific matter to an audience of peers and experts, refine public speaking skills, and to assist in the development of the student’s ability to identify critical problems and ask critical questions regarding a particular research area. Therefore, in addition to giving an oral presentation, all students are expected to be active participants in the course by asking questions and by providing written feedback to peers. The seminar must be taken 4 times before the thesis defense.  It is offered every spring semester. Students in years 1-4 are required to register for and attend all of the seminars. Students in year 5+ are strongly encouraged to continue to attend the seminars.

**First year students** will give an oral presentation. Topic selection will be based on discussion with the Course Director, but will generally be derived from topics pertinent to toxicology and environmental health—often closely associated with one of the laboratories in which the student rotated**. Second, third and fourth year students** will present a seminar based on their ongoing research. The order of student presentations will be distributed at or just prior to the start of the term, and will generally proceed alphabetically, by year, with the fourth year students going at the start of the term (and first year students presenting at the end of the term).

**Grading:**

The course director will use several criteria defined below to arrive at an overall grade, including the ratings provided in the written evaluations from seminar attendees, the course directors’ evaluations, and attendance and active participation in the seminar series. In terms of active participation, this refers to both asking insightful questions during the seminars, and providing meaningful written critiques of other’s presentations.

**Attendance (20%):** Everyone expected to attend. If you cannot attend you must let the course director know ahead of time. Excused absences are for attending conferences or if you are ill. Everyone is allowed one unexpected absence, e.g. stuck in the lab because experiments took longer than expected, car broke down, missed the bus. If this happens, you must email the course director promptly.

**Questions Asked (10%):** You are encouraged to ask questions. There is no such thing as a stupid question! A bonus is given for asking thoughtful questions.There is an award given out at the annual Tox retreat to the student who asks the most questions.

**Questions Received (10%):** You must leave sufficient time for questions or this will be reflected in this part of the grade.A presentation of 40-45 minutes (not more than 45 min and not less than 35 min) is appropriate. A period of no-less than 10 minutes should be allowed for audience questions. The whole seminar must not exceed the allotted **1-hour** period.

**Seminar Score (40%):** This is how your peers and faculty critique your presentation.

**Critiques (20%):** The course director will be reading each of the written evaluations of the peer's presentation to make sure that each student is providing substantive and constructive comments for each presenter and to make sure that comments made reflect the score you circle. If you circle anything but outstanding then you need to justify why. It is ok to leave comments about the science but the critiques are really meant to help the student improve their oral presentation skills in communicating more effective presentations in the future. Students will be required to meet with the course director after their seminar to go over written evaluations and discuss their presentation.

**Toxicology Seminar Series / TOX 558 – Spring 2019**

**Mondays, 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm / K-307 (3-6408)**

**Course Director: Lisa DeLouise, PhD**

Jan 7 Jasmine Reed

Jan 14 Tim Smyth

Jan 21 No Class – MLK Day

Jan 28 Kadijah Abston

Feb 4 Ashley Fields

Feb 11 Ashley Rackow

Feb 18 Keegan Vaughan

Feb 25 Tim Anderson

Mar 4 Tyler Bell

Mar 11 No Class - SOT

Mar 18 Janine Cubello

Mar 25 Jakob Gunderson

Apr 1 Connor McGuire

Apr 8 Mackenzie Palmer

Apr 15 Ashley Peppriell

Apr 22 Ian Krout / Tom Lamb

Apr 29 Joe Lucas / Alyssa Merrill

May 6 Alexandra Strohm / Emily Quarato

**Important Notes:**

Check these dates over now and confirm with your mentor. If you find that you are scheduled to present on a day that conflict with your mentor’s availability, **it is your responsibility to switch with another student**.  Please inform your coordinator (elizabeth\_williams-velasquez@urmc.rochester.edu or ext. 5-6702) of the change in schedule.

Please send me your seminar title and abstract no later than one-week prior to your seminar.