

American University of Beirut
Faculty of Health Sciences
MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCES PROGRAM

Seminar
MLSP 211 (1 cr.)
Spring 2020

Course Instructor: **Dr. Soha Yazbek**
Van Dyck, Room 323
Office Hours: by appointment via email
Extension : 4695
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Time: Monday 8 – 8:50 am
Place: Room 201

Course Description

This course is a one-credit course offered to Medical Laboratory Sciences (MLS) Students during their senior year. This course is designed to train students to search for, read and understand published scientific papers. Moreover, students will be trained to present in class and critically analyze original manuscripts. The presenting student(s) will be guided in class and in one-to-one meetings to learn how to interpret, defend and criticize the published work as well as respond to questions and inquiries.

Course Format

The course is based on a series of introductory lectures, class exercises followed by presentations held by students. The introductory lectures aim to instruct students on searching the literature on a specific scientific topic from the MLS discipline, as well as to train and guide them on how to read and present a scientific paper. During this course, the students will be exposed to a writing component to enhance their critical thinking skills. The course requires students to work in groups of 2-3 to carry a critical analysis on a selected topic of the medical laboratory sciences. The students will present in an oral (presentation) on their topic of choice. A writing exercise (selected by the course instructor) will be also required.

A list of suggested topics is provided below; however, students can come up with a topic of interest/original research paper. The topic would be agreed upon following a series of meetings between the students and the course instructor. During the course of the semester and in addition to continuous feedback during class sessions, the course instructor will meet with students groups; the former will guide the groups on the best way of reviewing and preparing their presentations and to address their questions. This course allows students to perform peer-evaluation whereby the class will be evaluating the presenting team using a standardized rubric prepared by the instructor.

Specific Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

1. Show competence in searching the most recent literature of Medical Laboratory Sciences disciplines using medical websites (e.g. PubMed)
2. Select, review and interpret recently published scientific papers
3. Understand and critically analyze an original research manuscript
4. Prepare and interpret in an oral and written format the current literature

Course Material and Readings

There is no book for the course. Students are expected to prepare for the session by reading the selected paper prior to class time; the presenting group is responsible of preparing the Power Point Presentation and presenting it.

The lecture handouts and the paper reviewed and presented in class by each group will be posted on Moodle ahead of class. In the event the lecture handouts are not posted, the course instructor will be responsible for bringing hard copies to class.

Course Schedule

Topic

January 27	Introduction to the course objectives and learning outcomes What is research? What are Scientific Publications?
February 3	Introduction to literature review and online search engines (Representative, Saab Medical Library)
February 17	How to read a scientific manuscript Guide to groups
February 24	Ways to come up with appropriate research topic ideas
March 2	How to present a scientific manuscript, Guidance tips for the presentation.
March 9	How to Objectively Critique research work Writing assignment
March 23	Team work, ethical concerns and plagiarism
March 30, April 6, April 27, May 4, May 11	Groups' Presentations (Group hema1,2 , Group sero,BB, Group PCM,Para , Group Bacterio 1,2, Group Chem 1,2)

Suggested Topics for Class Presentations

Students will be guided to search and select an article on one of the suggested topics or any other selected one following the instructor's approval. Students are expected to present in class during a 15-minutes presentation followed by 5-10 minutes of questions and discussion. Students are also expected to submit an outline of their presentation and a concise written summary of the manuscript.

Course Evaluation

Meets Objectives

1.	Choice of paper/topic/journal	10%	1 & 2
2.	Writing assignment	10%	4
3.	Presentation and group work	60%	2, 3, 4
4.	Participation in class/drop quizzes	15%	2 & 3
5.	Attendance	5%	

Course Requirements:

1. **Attendance:** You are urged to attend all classes. In case of absence, you will be responsible to the material missed and for any announcements made. Students who miss more than one-fifth of class sessions are subject to withdrawing from the course with a W-grad (check AUB catalogue).
2. **Exams:** You are urged to take exams/quizzes and submit assignments on the assigned time. Make up exams will be given only in case of emergencies or major illness (authorized medical report is required).
3. **Cheating and Plagiarism:** Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Review the Student Code of Conduct in your handbook and familiarize yourself with definitions and penalties. If you are in doubt about what constitutes plagiarism, ask your instructor because it is your responsibility to know. The American University of Beirut has a strict anti-cheating policy. Penalties include failing marks on the assignment in question, suspension or expulsion from University and a permanent mention of the disciplinary action in the student's records.
4. **Students with Disabilities:** "AUB strives to make learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers due to a disability (including mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please inform me immediately so that we can privately discuss options. In order to help establish reasonable accommodations and facilitate a smooth accommodations process, you are encouraged to contact the Accessible Education Office: accessibility@aub.edu.lb; +961-1-350000, x3246; West Hall, 314".