

Course Description

This course will allow for the critical assessment of recent publications of Molecular Plant Science (MPS) seminar speakers during the semester, facilitating student growth and development across the broad spectrum of interests represented in the molecular plant sciences program. One student will present a paper each week from the recent work of the next MPS seminar speaker for discussion. All students, not only the presenter, will be expected to actively participate in discussion and will develop their critical thinking skills and expand their molecular plant science knowledge base.

Course Meeting Schedule

The course meeting presenter assignments will be made the first week of class.

Prep Day (PSSB A159)	Seminar Day (BCH 101)	MPS Speaker	Student Presenter	Reading
Jan 16	No seminar	Introductions		
Jan 23	Jan 26	Joseph Lynch	TBD	
Jan 30	Feb 2	Laurie Leonelli	TBD	
Feb 6	Feb 9	Lena Mueller	TBD	
No Class	Feb 16	* Student talks *	TBD	
Feb 20	Feb 23	Rory Craig	TBD	
N/A	March 2nd	Spring Break	Spring Break	Spring Break
No Class	March 9	Mariana Silva Artur	TBD	
March 13	March 16	Jenn Brophy	TBD	
March 20	March 23	Scott Jackson	TBD	
March 27	March 30	Camilo Parada Rojas	TBD	
April 3	April 6	Jana U'Ren	TBD	
April 10	April 13	Verena Kriechbaumer	TBD	
April 17	April 20	Anton Lang seminar	TBD	

Course Meetings

There are two components to the class, a meeting on Friday afternoon prior to the MPS seminar, and the MPS seminar itself. The preparatory class is a 1-hour discussion session **Friday 3-4pm PSSB A159**, while the seminar itself is a 1-hour seminar, **Monday 4-5pm BCH 101**.

As will be laid out in the first class January 16th, this class is driven primarily by the students. The typical week will begin with a student leading the discussion on a recent paper authored by the speaker for the next MPS seminar, either through a chalk-talk style or via a slidedeck prepared by the student discussion leader. The key questions that the discussion leaders should be ready to facilitate discussion about are:

1. What are the scientific questions or hypotheses addressed in this paper?
2. What methods were used to develop the scientific story told in the paper?
3. How does this method work at the molecular scale?
4. How do the data figures support the story?

Thus, the first day will mostly deal with logistics, as the student presenters/discussion leaders for the remaining class periods are chosen by mutual agreement. Every student must be a presenter/discussion leader at least once! While the instructors will be present and can act as additional facilitators to drive the discussion forward, it is natural that we may not have all the answers in advance. Thus, we anticipate that natural curiosity will drive the discussion among the participants along new paths beyond those planned by the facilitators, and that the discussions will be free-flowing and full of real-time information searches from online sources. This is ok, and encouraged!

Attendance Policy

A contributor to the final grade will be your attendance, either in person (preferred) or via zoom if professional obligations or health prevent in-person attendance. If for whatever reason, you cannot make it to class, and need to attend remotely, please let the instructors know to facilitate setup for the remote option when needed. There are 23 meetings for this class, 11 Fridays, and 12 seminars. Attendance will be kept via a sign-in sheet and zoom logs.

MSU and Course Policies

Academic Integrity Policy

All participants in this class are held to the standard set by MSU's Policy on Integrity of Scholarship and Grades. The policy can be read in full at the [MSU Ombudsperson's website](https://ombudsman.msu.edu/). For more details on policies and their importance, visit <http://splife.studentlife.msu.edu/spartan-code-of-honor-academic-pledge>

Remember your Spartan Code of Honor Academic Pledge:

***As a Spartan, I will strive to uphold values of the highest ethical standard.
I will practice honesty in my work, foster honesty in my peers, and take pride in
knowing that honor is worth more than grades.
I will carry these values beyond my time as a student at Michigan State University,
continuing the endeavor to build personal integrity in all that I do.***

Course Recordings and Intellectual Property

Course Recordings

Meetings of this course may be recorded, for posterity or to enable students to meet other professional obligations. The recordings may be available to students registered for this class. This is intended to supplement the classroom experience. Students are expected to follow appropriate University policies and maintain the security of passwords used to access recorded lectures. Recordings may not be reproduced, shared with those not in the class, or uploaded to other online environments. Doing so may result in disciplinary action. If the instructor or another University office plan other uses for the recordings beyond this class, students identifiable in the recordings will be notified to request consent prior to such use.

Intellectual property

As members of a learning community, students are expected to respect the intellectual property of course instructors. All course materials presented to students, including recorded lectures, activities, and assessment questions, are the copyrighted property of the course instructors. Students **may not** post course materials online or distribute them to anyone without the advance written permission of the course instructor. Any student violating the intellectual property rights described above may face academic disciplinary sanctions.

Grief absences

If a student experiences death of a family member or emotional distress from a similar tragedy, refer to [MSU's Grief Absence Policy](https://reg.msu.edu/ROInfo/Notices/GriefAbsence.aspx) (<https://reg.msu.edu/ROInfo/Notices/GriefAbsence.aspx>). Students will be asked to supply information on the nature of the loss, the date they became aware, and the expected period of absence. Once completed, the information is routed to the Associate Dean of the student's college and must be received prior to the student leaving campus. The student will receive a confidential message confirming the submission and reminding them that supporting documentation must be provided and who to send it to. In addition, the appropriate dean's office will be notified that a request has been submitted. Once the appropriate administrator has either approved or denied the request, the student will again receive a confidential message notifying them of the decision of the dean's office. If approved, instructors will be notified by the appropriate dean's office of the period of absence. Instructors are expected to arrange for students to make up the missed work.

Mental Health

College students often experience issues that may interfere with academic success such as academic stress, sleep problems, juggling responsibilities, life events, relationship concerns, or feelings of anxiety, hopelessness, or depression. If you or a friend is struggling, we strongly encourage you to seek support. Helpful, effective resources are available on campus, and most are at no-charge.

- If you are struggling with this class, please visit during office hours or contact the instructors or teaching assistants (see contact info on the first page)
- Check in with your academic advisor if you are struggling in multiple classes, unsure whether you are making the most of your time at MSU, or unsure what academic resources are available at MSU.
- Access CAPS Services for new counseling and psychiatric services by making a **CAPS Phone Request**.
- **CAPS is providing remote crisis services 24/7/365. Students can call us at 517-355-8270 and press "1" at the prompt to speak with a crisis counselor.** Other prompt options are available for those not in crisis.
- Visit <https://caps.msu.edu> for additional information and resources.

University Policy on Mandatory Reporting

Michigan State University is committed to fostering a culture of caring and respect that is free of relationship violence and sexual misconduct, and to ensuring that all affected individuals have access to services. For information on reporting options, confidential advocacy and support resources, university policies and procedures, or how to make a difference on campus, visit the Title IX website at titleix.msu.edu.

Limits to confidentiality. University employees, including instructors, graduate students, and ULAs may not be able to maintain confidentiality when it conflicts with their responsibility to report certain issues to protect the health and safety of MSU community members and others. As the instructor, I must report the following information to other University offices (including the Department of Police and Public Safety) if you share it with any of us:

- Suspected child abuse/neglect, even if this maltreatment happened when you were a child;
- Allegations of sexual assault, relationship violence, stalking, or sexual harassment; and
- Credible threats of harm to oneself or to others.

These reports may trigger contact from a campus official who will want to talk with you about the incident that you have shared. In almost all cases, it will be your decision whether you wish to speak with that individual. If you would like to talk about these events in a more confidential setting, you are encouraged to make an appointment with the MSU Counseling and Psychiatric Services.

Key Resources for Reporting Misconduct

- MSU's Office of Institutional Equity (OIE) serves to uphold and advance our shared values through oversight and application of civil rights policies.
 - The Anti-Discrimination Response and Investigation team supports, responds to, and investigates reports related to discrimination and harassment based on race, ethnicity, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, age, gender, gender identify, sexual identity, height, marital status, political persuasion, sexual orientation, veteran status, or weight.
 - The Relationship Violence and Sexual Misconduct Response and Investigation team supports, responds to, and investigates relationship violence and sexual misconduct, including dating violence, gender-based harassment, sexual assault, and stalking.
 - <https://civilrights.msu.edu/response-and-investigations/index.html>
- The College of Natural Sciences Diversity, Equity and Inclusion website lists comprehensive resources relating to Relationship Violence and Sexual Misconduct, Discrimination, and Conflict Resolution
 - <https://natsci.msu.edu/diversity-equity-and-inclusion/reporting/>