PCB 6095 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN BIOLOGY I
PCB 7090 ADVANCED RESEARCH COMMUNICATION I
Detailed Assignments Schedule

WEEK 1 - TRUSTEES IN THIS ASYLUM

- During the week - meet three other graduate students who have been here at least one year, including two outside your own lab, and ask each of them about:
  1) their degree and their research
  2) their working relationships with their advisor and other graduate students
  3) how they feel about the department and their experience so far
- Next week - Summarize (no names) and share your thoughts in the next class

WEEK 2 – EXPECTATIONS

- In class - write a list of your general expectations for your graduate experience
- During the week - meet with your advisor and list their expectations for you
- Next week - be prepared to discuss the alignment/misalignment of those two lists

WEEK 3 – A WEEK IN THE LIFE 1

- In class - write a list of tasks/events you expect during a typical grad student week, with approximate hours per task/event
- During the week - meet with your advisor and list their expectations about how you should be spending a typical week - aim for specifics
- Next week - be prepared to discuss the alignment/misalignment of those two lists

WEEK 4 – A WEEK IN THE LIFE 2

- In class - write a list of tasks/events you think your advisor conducts each week, with approximate hours per task/event
- During the week - meet with your advisor to learn how they spend a typical week - aim for specifics
- Next week - be prepared to discuss the alignment/misalignment of those two lists

WEEK 5 – TIME MANAGEMENT

- In class - participate in making a list of possible time management methods
- During the week -
  1) think specifically about how to make grad school fit in your life - write down best options
  2) Read the following on the course web page:
     - pgs 1–7 in NAS – On Being a Scientist… (2009)
- Next week - be prepared to share your ideas in our discussion

WEEK 6 – ETHICS 1

- In class - discuss cheating in classes how to deal with it as both student and instructor
- During the week - read pgs. 8–18 in in NAS – On Being a Scientist… (2009)

- Next week – be prepared to share your thoughts in our discussion

WEEK 7 ETHICS 2

- In class - discuss the ethical concerns of conducting research
- During the week - read pgs. 29–38 in in NAS – On Being a Scientist… (2009)
  - another decent resource is http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Academic_authorship
- Next week - be prepared to discuss the readings

WEEK 8 – ETHICS 3

- In class - discuss the ethical concerns of authorship
- During the week -
  - meet with your advisor to discuss authorship of your potential presentations and publications and agree on shared principles
  - draft your own program of study, with courses you will choose among those that will be offered
- Next week - be prepared to discuss (a) the agreement you and your advisor reach on potential authorship and (b) your draft program of study

WEEK 9 - PROGRAM OF STUDY 1

- In class - discuss the essential requirements of programs of study
- During the week - meet with your advisor to discuss your program of study and a potential advisory committee to approve your program of study
- Next week - be prepared to share what you've drafted and receive feedback

WEEK 10 - PROGRAM OF STUDY 2

- In class - share your program of study and solicit feedback
- During the week - read on the course web page: the McGill et al. (2007) and Platt (1964)
- Next week - be prepared to discuss the readings

WEEK 11 - STRONG INFERENCE

- In class - discuss strong inference as it relates to your potential research or work
- During the week - write a paragraph on your general research direction and how the strong inference framework will apply
- Next week - be prepared to share your paragraph

WEEK 12 – HYPOTHESES, QUESTIONS, PREDICTIONS

- In class - discuss strong inference and hypotheses/questions/predictions
- During the week - meet with your advisor to discuss your general research options and decide whether hypotheses, questions, or predictions will be most fitting
- Next week - be prepared to share general outcomes of that meeting

WEEK 13 - PLANNING RESEARCH

- In class - share your thoughts on your advisor meeting and participate in continued discussion of hypotheses, questions and predictions
- During the week – meet with your advisor to discuss your general research plans, including:
  - any modifications of hypotheses/questions/predictions
  - general approach
  - timeline
- Next week - be prepared to share general outcomes of that meeting

WEEK 14 - YOUR RESEARCH

- In class - share your thoughts on your advisor meeting and research in general
- During the week – meet with your advisor to discuss your general research plans, advisory committee, and draft proposal preparation
- Next week - be prepared to share general outcomes of that meeting

WEEK 15 - ADVISORY COMMITTEE & PROPOSAL

- In class - share your thoughts on your advisor meeting and participate in discussion of your advisory committee and your research proposal
- Next semester - be prepared to share your draft research proposal and plans