IMPORTANT: This syllabus form should be submitted to OAA (gsbs_academic_affairs@uth.tmc.edu) a week before the start of each semester.

NOTE to STUDENTS: If you need any accommodations related to attending/enrolling in this course, please contact one of the Graduate School's 504 Coordinator, Natalie Sirisaengtaksin, PhD. We ask that you notify GSBS in advance (preferably at least 3 days before the start of the semester) so we can make appropriate arrangements.

Term and Year: **Spring 2026** Course Number and Course Title: **GS04 1821: Genetics and Epigenetics Oral Scientific Presentations** **Credit Hours: 1** Meeting Location: **UTH-MDACC/ Basic Science Research Building (BSRB)** Building/Room#: **TBD**	**Program Required Course: Yes** **Approval Code: Yes** **(If yes,** the Course Director or the Course Designee will provide the approval code.) Audit Permitted: **No** Classes Begin: **January 12, 2026** Classes End: **April 27, 2026** Final Exam Week: **N/A**

Class Meeting Schedule

Day	Time
Monday	**10:00 – 11:30am and 10:00 – 12:00pm (as needed)**

Course Director Name and Degree: **Francesca Cole, PhD** Title:Associate Professor Department: Epigenetics and Molecular Carcinogenesis Institution**: MDACC** Email Address: fcole@mdanderson.org Contact Number: 917-361-3558 **Course Co-Director/s:** Name and Degree: **Marie-Claude Hofmann, PhD** Title: Professor Department: Endocrine Neoplasia and Hormonal Disorders Institution: *MDACC* Email Address: MHofmann@mdanderson.org Contact Number: 713-745-2009	**Instructor/s** 1. **Francesca Cole, PhD** Institution: MDACC Email Address : fcole@mdanderson.org 2. **Marie-Claude Hofmann, PhD** Institution: MDACC Email Address : MHofmann@mdanderson.org 3. **Marianna Trakala, PhD** Institution: MDACC Email Address : MTrakala@mdanderson.org

NOTE: Office hours are available by request. Please email me to arrange a time to meet.

Teaching Assistant:

N/A
Name and Email Address

Course Description:

The G&E Scientific Presentation class is designed for second year students who have chosen their thesis lab and are preparing for their candidacy exam. The students will use their thesis project as a template to develop a 15-minute scientific presentation. All aspects of the presentation will be covered including title and introduction slides, organizing your data into a story, model slides and conclusions and answering questions. In addition to the 15-minute presentation students will also give two 90 second elevator talks for scientists and non-scientists. Students will also present a 10-minute chalk talk in preparation for the G&E qualifying exam. This course is designed to prepare the student for the oral defense portion of their candidacy exam and to prepare the student to present their work in both short and long format platform presentations.

Textbook/Supplemental Reading Materials (if any)

- **N/A**

Course Objective/s:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will improve presentation of their science in both academic and non-academic settings

***Specific Learning Objectives*:**

1. Develop and give two 90-second elevator talks on your research, one geared toward scientists and one geared toward non-scientists.
2. Create and organize introduction, data, and conclusion slides on your research.
3. Articulate what you are doing and what you plan to do to other scientists.
4. Develop and practice a 10-min. chalk talk of your science.
5. Learn to provide constructive feedback on other “students/peoples” talks.

Student responsibilities and expectations:

Students enrolled in this course will be expected to perform the following activities:

1. Give a 10-minute chalk talk describing their research plan.
2. Give a 15-minute talk to the class with 5 minutes of question and answers after your talk.
3. Participate in class discussion and in review and critique sessions.
4. Attend class; More than 2 unexcused absences will be counted as a Fail.
5. Give two 1 ½ minute elevator talks to the class.

Plagiarism and failure to properly cite scientific literature and other sources will not be tolerated and are grounds for dismissal from the course and further GSBS disciplinary action.

Feedback

Your feedback on the organization and content of this course is critical for us to provide you and future classes with the best possible course. Please do not hesitate to provide your comments or criticisms during class or if you would like feel free to contact the class coordinators if you have comments or criticisms; these comments and/or criticisms will have no impact on your grading for the course.

Grading System: **Pass/Fail**

Student Assessment and Grading Criteria :

To pass you must do the following five things: 1) Give two 1 ½ minute elevator talks to the class. 2) Give a 10-minute chalk talk describing your research plan. 3) Give a 15-minute talk to the class with 5 minutes of question and answers after your talk. 4) Participate in class discussion and in review and critique sessions. 5) Attend class; you cannot miss more than 2 class sessions, or it will be counted as a Fail.

Percentage	Description
Participation and/or Attendance (50%)	Missing more than 2 class sessions will be counted as a Fail.
Presentation (50%)	All presentations must be given for a pass.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Date	Duration (Hour(s) taught by lecturer)	Lecture Topic	Lecturer/s
January 12	1.5 hours	Why Give a Research Talk: Text and Graphic Abstracts	Faculty (Hofmann)
January 19		Martin Luther King Holiday, (No Class)	
January 26	1.5 hours	Telling Your Story on a Napkin: Intro to Giving Elevator Talks	Students & Faculty (Cole and Trakala)
February 2	1.5 hours	Elevator Talks to Scientists (Blaffer Speakers)	Students & Faculty (Hofmann)
February 9	1.5 hours	How to Get Started: Title, Introduction, and Outlining	Students & Faculty
February 16	1.5 hours	Making and Organizing Slides	Faculty (Cole)
February 23	1.5 hours	Presenting and Describing Your Data	Students & Faculty
March 2	1.5 hours	Finishing Your Talk	Students & Faculty
March 9		**Spring break (no class)**	
March 16	1.5 hours	Elevator Talks to Non-Scientists	Students & Guest Non-Scientist
March 23	1.5 hours	Posters & Chalk Talk Basics	Faculty (Trakala & Cole)
March 30	2 hours	Chalk Talks (6 students)	Students &Faculty
April 6	2 hours	Chalk Talks (6 students)	Students &Faculty
April 13	2 hours	Final Presentations (3 students)	Students & Faculty
April 20	2 hours	Final Presentations (3 students)	Students & Faculty
April 27	2 hours	Final Presentations (3 students)	Students & Faculty
May 4	2 hours	Final Presentations (3 students)	Students & Faculty

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