

**Spring 2012  
Bio 572  
Plant Biology Journal Club**

**Class Details:**

Meeting Time: Alternating Fridays from 9 – 11 AM

Location: 312 McDonnell Hall

Credit: 1 unit

**Coursemaster: Barbara Kunkel**

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**Discussion Leaders:**

Ivan Baxter, Bob Blankenship, Liz Haswell, Barbara Kunkel, Sona Pandey, Lucia Strader, Jim Umen, Oliver Yu

**Course description:**

A biweekly discussion of modern and classic research in plant and microbial biology, including topics in molecular genetics, development, biochemistry, physiology, population dynamics and plant-pathogen interactions. Credit will be contingent on regular attendance and active and informed participation in group discussions and in an online format.

**Goals:**

1. To develop students' critical reading skills and prepare them for the peer review process.
2. To provide an in depth discussion of both classic and important new papers in the area of plant biology.
3. To give students experience in explaining scientific concepts in a casual atmosphere.

**Course Format:**

Faculty advisors will select a recent or classic paper for discussion, and distribute questions meant to stimulate discussion in advance of class via an online wiki. Students will take turns leading discussions of each paper. Students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss any aspect of the assigned readings. The focus will be both on big-picture themes, scientific rationale, experimental approaches, as well as technical details of each of the figures in the research paper.

**Required Reading:**

Papers for discussion and any relevant background material will be distributed well in advance of each class meeting.

**Academic Integrity:**

Students are expected to abide by the Washington University Policies on Academic Integrity:  
Graduate Students: <http://artsci.wustl.edu/GSAS/Policies/ACINTEG03.pdf>

Please also observe standard classroom etiquette: turn off your cell phone, no email or texting during class, and listen to other students' ideas with respect and without interruption.