Syllabus Bioe 1072:
302C Benedum Hall, 12:00 - 12:50pm
Friday, Jan. 11th, 2013
Professor Lance Davidson (lad43@pitt.edu)

Jan. 11 Organizational meeting for seminar class - goals of class, discussion of scientific method, types of papers, and a systematic approach for reading primary data papers.
Jan. 25 Discussion of Wolfe-Simon et al.
Feb. 8 Review paper relevant to Paper 2.
Feb. 15 No Class (Midterm I)
Feb. 22 Discussion of Paper 2.
Mar. 1 Review paper relevant to paper 3.
Mar. 8 Discussion of Paper 3.
Mar. 15 No Class (Spring Recess)
Mar. 29 Discussion of Paper 4. (Project Proposals Due)
April 5 Draft project discussion.
April 12 Final project presented.
April 19 End of Semester Lunch!

Course statement:
Bioe 1072 is the Honor College section of Bioe 1071. Students taking Bioe 1072 will take the same lecture and will participate in a recitation section from Bioe 1071 but have an additional weekly seminar on advanced topics and readings from current literature. The course will begin with a tutorial on "How to read the primary literature in biomedical research." We will go over why and how papers are written and how the peer review process works. You will learn how to critically and creatively analyze papers. Students will choose from a range of final projects, such as writing a review paper, or creating a Wikipedia entry on a specific term or biomedical research topic. Collaborative projects are encouraged!
Active participation in this class is important.

Aims of Bioe 1072. The main goal of this course is to learn how to read primary research papers but this is not a simple "Journal Club". Our discussions of authorship and research papers will include: understanding why papers are written, what is their general format, how they are written, how authorship is determined, what journals and publishing companies are seeking, how research papers are reviewed, and, how authors and research papers' impact on the field is assessed. Along the way we will read several papers, discuss them in detail, and carry out a critical and creative analysis. Importantly we will seek to understand how authors "set-up" their questions, define their hypotheses, carry out experiments, interpret results, and discuss their findings in a larger context.

Requirement for the class:
(1) Pre-meeting paper evaluation , (2) In class participation, (3) End of term project.