School of Molecular & Cellular Biology

MCB 292
Experiential Learning in MCB, 1-2 Credit Hour(s)

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Shawna Naidu
209 Burrill Hall
shawna@illinois.edu

CLASS MEETINGS: TBA
Office Hours by appointment

Course Overview and Description:
Students enrolled in MCB 292 will participate in a volunteer experience that relates to a social issue AND to the student’s major or future career. Written reflections and a final presentation are designed to help students make connections between the MCB curriculum, social issues, and their future careers.

Student Learning Outcomes:
At the end of the course students will be able to:
- construct a relevant and meaningful bridge between the MCB curriculum and social issues.
- communicate effectively with stakeholders, supervisors, peers, mentors and clients about needs, issues, and problems as well as offer insights, observations, and personal and societal impact statements.
- identify social and historic issues in science or a chosen field or career and envision their role in shaping the future of those issues.
- apply the scientific method to the experience to gain a deeper understanding of the societal issues and their role in them, both currently and in the future.

Course Text/Materials Information: none

Course Website, Course Tools: Moodle

Grading Information and Breakdown
Grade (S/U): Students will be graded on the following items in the course (Satisfactory work will require regular participation and contribution at the experience and thoughtful and comprehensive work on the proposal, the reflections, and the final presentation of the experience):
- Proposal (10%)
- Regular, weekly participation at the organization (30%)
- 7 written reflections in response to prompts (30%)
- Final project with checkpoints in the format of the student’s choice (30%)

Process:
Students will select an organization with which they intend to volunteer for an average of 5-10* hours per week over the course of the semester. Selection of the organization is flexible but should relate to a social issue AND to the student’s major or future career. The experience

---

*The expected time commitment depends on the number of credits enrolled with 1 credit equal to approximately 5 hours per week. MCB Honors students MUST enroll for 2 credits (a 10 hour/week commitment) in order to use MCB 292 to satisfy one of their MCB Honors requirements. Other students may choose 1-2 credits.
should be a new one (with an organization the student has not previously worked with) OR should represent a substantial change and/or increase in responsibility or activity if continuing an ongoing interaction. Students should draft and submit a proposal in the semester prior to their enrollment term. The proposal should include the following:

1. Name of the organization.
2. Contact person’s (Supervisor) name and contact information for the organization.
3. A written description of the proposed work/activity (OK if details are not worked out fully).
4. A written description of what social issue the student is focusing on, and how the experience relates to the student’s MCB education or future career goals.
5. If applicable, a description of how the involvement represents a substantial change from previous work within the same organization.
6. A list of goals for the experience.

**FORMAT:** Please provide a numbered list (1-6) with headings as written above and your responses under each heading.

Proposals must be emailed to Dr. Shawna Naidu (shawna@illinois.edu) no later than two weeks prior to the first day of classes for the enrollment semester. Submission of a proposal is not a guarantee that approval will be granted for enrollment in MCB 292. Proposals will be reviewed, and students notified of acceptance or rejection as soon as possible. It is highly recommended that you contact Dr. Naidu to discuss and/or submit your proposal BEFORE the due date, so that you have time to make any revisions necessary to enhance the likelihood of acceptance.

**General Calendar (with grading details)**

- Proposal (10%)
- Regular, weekly participation at the organization (30%)
  - Qualified participation and the recording of such will be determined by MCB staff and the experience supervisor.
- 7 written reflections in response to prompts (30%)
  - Week 3: Describe your basis for choosing this particular experience. **OR** Describe your initial expectations for what you will do and what you may learn.
  - Week 5: Describe the knowledge or information you bring to this experience. **OR** If your experience seems comfortable or easy so far, describe how you can challenge yourself to move beyond that comfort.
  - Week 7: Discuss a difficulty or obstacle that you have encountered so far and explain how you have overcome that. **OR** Identify whether or not your initial expectations match your experience. If not, please describe. If so, please elaborate.
  - Week 9: Describe how this social issue is of concern for you and how it relates to your current career choice. **OR** If your experience involves working with others, explain how you relate to those people, how your approach is similar and how it is different.
  - Week 11: Writer’s choice.
Week 13: Describe the effect that this experience has had personally and how it has affected your career aspirations. OR Reflect on how your experience directly relates to your major or career choice.

Week 15: Describe how this experience will impact you as a professional. Identify the least and most satisfying aspects of your experience and what you could have done differently, if anything. Describe what you learned about yourself. Identify how your experience differed from your initial expectations if it did. Finally, detail the most informative aspect of your experience.

- Final project with checkpoints in the format of the student’s choice (30%)
  - Short, written description of chosen format for final project (week 8)
  - Outline (week 10)
  - Rough draft (week 12)
  - Final presentation/submission of final project (week 14)

Past Organization Affiliations:
- Avicenna Community Health Center
- CampusTown Urgent Care
- Champaign-Urbana Public Health District
- Clark-Lindsey Retirement Village
- Crisis Nursery
- Parkland Dental Hygiene Clinic (Spanish Interpreter)
- Personal Assistant for student with Disabilities
- Project READ
- Small Hand Infant Need and Diaper Pantry
- South Valley Hospice (remote)
- UniPlace (University Place Church Community Dinner)
- We CU Community Engaged Scholars (matches with various organizations)
- Wesley Food Pantry

MCB Curriculum Policies

For non-academic campus assistance and support:
- See Office of Diversity, Equity and Access (ODEA) information at the end of this document.

Student Advocacy Resources:
- For student-centered advocacy programs and services visit: mcb.illinois.edu/undergrad/advising/resources.

Contacting MCB Course Personnel:
- MCB course personnel are more than happy to assist students.
- Emails to instructors, TAs, or course coordinators will only be answered if they come from an @illinois.edu account. We will only use this account in order to protect your educational information and profile. As a student, please remember that when you email a staff member, it is important to include all pertinent information so that we
can assist you in the most efficient and effective manner possible. This information includes:
  o The course rubric in the subject line
  o Your full first and last name
  o Your NetID (the first part of your illinois.edu email account)
  o Your UIN (9 digit number that can be found on your ICard)
  o The course that you are concerned about (the course personnel often work with multiple courses)
  o Your section letter/number
  o The previous email “thread” or previous communicated information pertinent to the situation
• Your cooperation will help us respond much more quickly to your concerns.

Policies:
• Unfamiliarity with policies is not a defense for not knowing what they cover.

Adding the Course after the Semester Starts:
• We understand that the University has an add deadline 10 days into the semester, but the University lets individual courses and/or programs determine their policies for late adds. We feel that students who choose to add a course late do so at their own discretion with knowledge that there may be points lost in the process.

Religious Observances and Practices:
• Students are required to submit the Request for Accommodation for Religious Observances Form (which can be found at www.odos.illinois.edu/.../Religious_Observance_Accommodation_Request_Form.docx) to their instructors and the Office of the Dean of Students requesting accommodation by the end of the second week of the course. Requests that are not submitted within this time frame may not be granted. Information about accommodations can be found in the Student Code: http://studentcode.illinois.edu/.

DRES Accommodations:
• We are committed to providing a learning environment where our students can succeed. If you require special accommodations, please contact us and the Disability Resources and Educational Services (DRES) as soon as possible. To contact DRES, you may visit 1207 S. Oak Street, Champaign, call 217.333.4603, or email disability@illinois.edu. We will try to meet all accommodations once the process has started. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive to the beginning of the semester, but begin the day you contact your professor, instructor or coordinator with a current letter of accommodation from DRES.
• If a student believes that they need DRES accommodations, they should contact DRES at disability@illinois.edu.

Class Absences: This course is administered asynchronously on-line

Exams: There are no exams in this course

Grades: This course is S/U graded
Academic Integrity:

• The Code of Policies and Regulations Applying to All Students will be applied in all instances of academic misconduct committed by students. This applies to all exams, presentations, assignments and materials distributed or used in this course. You can review these policies at the following website: http://admin.illinois.edu/policy/code/index.html and specifically here: http://studentcode.illinois.edu/article1/part4/1-401/

• Science cannot exist without honesty. The faculty and staff in MCB require students, as scientists-in-the-making, to hold the highest standards of scientific and academic conduct. Any form of cheating on any graded work in courses is unacceptable.

• We require that all graded work be entirely your own, and that anything you write using the words of other writers be correctly attributed. Some specific points follow.

• On exams, the answers that your turn in for grading must be your own, formulated during the exam from your own understanding of the material and without any supporting information, be it written, verbal or electronic. Copying the work of another student, or allowing another to copy your work, or copying work from any other source, is unacceptable. Since we cannot always monitor you as you complete your work, we must rely upon appearance of your work from which to judge. If the work you submit resembles that of another student or another source too closely, we may conclude that it was not your original work. Always make a conscious effort to complete your work on your own and to protect it from the view of others, in order to ensure that it will be seen as your own. Failure to adhere to these standards for any portion of an exam may result in a grade of zero for the entire exam or quiz for all persons involved.

• Texting, or the use of a cell phone or any other device for any purpose, during a quiz or exam is prohibited. Doing so may earn you a zero or a more extreme penalty on the quiz or exam at the discretion of the instructor.

• Use of any social or electronic media to share information, request information or make confidential information public is prohibited. Any use of this type may earn you a zero on the exam or a more extreme penalty at the discretion of the instructor.

• On written or electronic assignments, the answers that you turn in for grading must be written in your own words, formulated from your own understanding of the material. While you may be working with other students in the course, you must formulate and submit your own answers. Copying or paraphrasing the work of another student, or allowing another to copy or paraphrase your work, is unacceptable. Since we cannot monitor you as you complete your work, we have only the appearance of your work from which to judge. If the work you submit resembles that of another student too closely, we may conclude that it was not your original work. Always make a conscious effort to complete your work on your own and to protect it from the view of others, in order to ensure that it will be seen as your own. You must also make a conscious effort to protect your passwords and accounts. Failure to adhere to these standards may result in a grade of zero for the entire assignment for all persons involved.

• On written or electronic assignments, if you use a statement taken directly from any book or other publication, including the course textbook, you must provide a citation. That is, you must put the text in quotes and put the author of the publication in parentheses after the quotation. Failure to do so will result in zero credit for that answer. Further, using only the words of another author as your entire answer or as the majority of your answer to any question is never sufficient to earn credit. If the majority of your work has been taken directly from a publication, you are likely to receive no credit for the work, since you would not be demonstrating knowledge
beyond the ability to copy. Even if you quote another, your answer must be substantially your own words, drawn from your own understanding of the material.

**Electronic Media/Device Use:**
- Use of any social or electronic media to share course information, request course information or make confidential course information public is prohibited. Any use of this type may earn you a zero on an assignment or exam or a more extreme penalty at the discretion of the instructor.
- Any violation of the social media policy on your account may result in a zero on an assignment or exam or a more extreme penalty at the discretion of the instructor.
- Any social media sites created in relation to MCB courses must grant access to course personnel upon request. Failure to provide access will result in a failing grade in the course for the group/site’s administrator(s).
- No electronic devices, including smart watches, are allowed at exams.

**Course Material:**
- Students are welcome and encouraged to make audio recordings of course lectures.
- The material recorded is intellectual and copyrighted property of the University of Illinois Board of Trustees and may be made for personal use only.
- Video recordings of any kind are strictly prohibited.
- Posting of audio recordings or transcriptions on social or electronic media platforms is strictly prohibited.
- Posting or redistributing of course material in any format is strictly prohibited.

**Student Resources/Where to go for Help:**
**We Care at Illinois**
- For sexual misconduct support, response and prevention visit: wecare.illinois.edu

*Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, etc. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find the appropriate resources here: [http://oiir.illinois.edu/sites/prod/files/SexualMisconduct_ResourceGuide.pdf](http://oiir.illinois.edu/sites/prod/files/SexualMisconduct_ResourceGuide.pdf)*

**Safety and Emergency**
*University Police Department, Emergency, 9-911; Non-emergency, 217-333-8911*
University Fire Department Emergency, 9-911
Crisis Line, 217-359-4141
Emergency Dean, 300 Turner Student Services Bldg., 610 E. John St., 217-333-0050
Counseling Center, 110 Student Services Bldg., 610 E. John St., 217-333-3704
McKinley Health Center, General Information, 217-333-2701
McKinley Mental Health Center, 1109 S. Lincoln, 217-333-2705
Dean of Students, 300 Turner Students Services Bldg, 610 E. John St., 217-333-0050
Local Sexual Assault Center, RACES, 217-384-4444
Women’s Resources Center, 703 South Wright Street, 2nd Floor, 217-333-3137
Rape Crisis 24-hour Hotline, 217-384-4444
Suicide & Psychological Emergency, Suicide Prevention Team, 217-333-3704
SafeRides (free nighttime campus ride program), 217-265-RIDE (265-7433)
SafeWalks (free walking escort service by Student Patrol), 217-333-1216

**Student Services and Advocacy**
Office of the Dean of Students, 300 Student Services Bldg., 610 E. John St., 217-333-0050
Classroom Support, Teaching Skills, and Instructional Strategies  
Center for Innovation in Teaching & Learning, 249 Armory Building, 217-333-1462

Counseling Services  
Counseling Center, 110 Student Services Bldg., 610 E. John St., 217-333-3704  
McKinley Mental Health Center, 1109 S. Lincoln Ave., 217-333-2701  
Psychological Services Center, 3rd Floor, 505 E. Green St., 217-333-0041

Disability Services  
Disability Resources and Educational Services (DRES), 1207 S. Oak St., 217-333-1970

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Resource Center  
LGBT Resource Center, 323 Illini Union, 1401 W. Green St., 217-244-8863

Veterans Services  
Veteran Student Support Services, Office of the Dean of Students, 610 E. John St., 217-333-0050  
Center for Wounded Veterans in Higher Education, 908 W. Nevada St., 217-300-3515

General Study Skills Assistance  
Office of Minority Student Affairs, 130 Student Services Bldg., 610 E. John St, 217-333-0054  
Office of Minority Student Affairs Tutoring Services, 701 S. Gregory Dr., Suite 1, 217-333-7547  
Writer’s Workshop, 251 Undergraduate Library, 1402 W. Gregory Dr., 217-333-8796  
**Additional academic assistance may be available through individual departments

Health Resources  
Health Education, McKinley Health Center, 1109 S. Lincoln Ave., 217-333-2701  
Alcohol & Other Drug Office, 2nd Floor Counseling Center, 610 E. John St., 217-333-7557  
Sexual Health Educator, McKinley Health Center, 1109 S. Lincoln Ave., 217-333-2714  
Dial-A-Nurse, McKinley Health Center (24-hour), 1109 S. Lincoln Ave., 217-333-2700  
Health Resource Center, McKinley Health Center, 1109 S. Lincoln Ave., 217-333-6000  
Health Resource Center, Room 40 Illini Union, 1401 W. Green St., 217-244-5994  
McKinley Health Center, General Information, 1109 S. Lincoln Ave., 217-333-2701

Sexual Harassment/Assault & Acts of Intolerance/Hate Crimes  
Office of the Dean of Students, 300 Students Services Bldg., 610 E. John St., 217-333-0050

The Office of Diversity, Equity and Access (ODEA):  
- For non-academic support visit: diversity.illinois.edu  
  - Discrimination & Harassment Prevention  
  - Title IX  
  - Accessibility & Accommodations  
  - Inclusive Illinois