Advanced Proposal Writing in the Biological Sciences
Biol 692 (2 credits)
Fall 2018

Instructor: Link Olson  Office Hours: by appt.
Museum
474-5998
link.olson@alaska.edu

Course goals and expected outcomes: The goal of this course is to provide graduate students with the tools and skills necessary to effectively seek competitive grant funding to support research. Topics to be covered include

- Who needs grants?
- Finding funding opportunities
- Pitching yourself and your research
- Collaborative proposals
- Pre-award steps
- Match: huh?
- Writing, writing, and writing
- Broader Impact and Intellectual Merit
- Acceptable risk
- Preparing budgets and budget justifications: striking the impossible balance
- Secret weapons: Supplementary documentation, figures, tables, appendices, and letters.
- Who can help?
- The review process
- Rejection: making lemonade out of lemons
- Post-award grant management: Now what?

Students will be required to prepare and submit an NSF Graduate Research Fellowship or similarly rigorous proposal.

Class will consist of 14 2-hour meetings. Time and venue TBA.

Course instruction will consist of a two-hour lecture/practicum/discussion once or twice a week (TBD on first day of formal instruction), in which all students are expected to actively participate and engage in rigorous peer review of proposal drafts.

There is no assigned text for this class. Course readings will be made available on Blackboard.

Course prerequisites: This course is intended primarily for students eligible for Graduate Research Fellowships (GRF) from the National Science Foundation. As such, only undergraduates in the fall of their graduating year, first-year graduate students, or second-year graduate students who did not submit a GRF proposal the previous year, are encouraged to enroll. Exceptions may be granted based on student preparedness and suitable alternate proposal options.
Course policies: Seminars will begin immediately upon the hour of scheduled meeting times. Plagiarism and other forms of cheating will result in an automatic "F" in the class.

Grading: Criteria for assessment include the following:

50% Participation (including attendance, preparation, and contributions to discussion and peer review)

25% Proposal development (on-time submission and quality of drafts, incorporation of peer and instructor critiques)

25% Final proposal (overall quality and submissability as evaluated by instructor).

Final letter grade will be based on the following breakdown:

90-100% A
80-89 B
70-79 C
60-69 D
59 or below F

Disabilities Services: The Office of Disability Services implements the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and insures that UAF students have equal access to the campus and course materials. We will work with the Office of Disabilities Services (203 Whit., 474-7043) to provide reasonable accommodation to students with disabilities.