Fundamentals of Bioagricultural Sciences and Pest Management

BSPM 500

Course Instructors:

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General Course Objectives

This course is designed to (a) help students get off to a great start in graduate school by understanding how the process works, setting goals, and getting started writing a research proposal, (b) introduce incoming students to BSPM faculty and their diverse research areas and expertise, (c) introduce new students to each other, and (d) create a common language among students to facilitate dialog among different research areas.

Specific course objectives include:

1. Assist you in developing specific short and long-term career goals.
2. Introduce you to the major research, teaching and outreach areas encompassed by BSPM and the key tools we use to advance our science and our impact on society at large.
3. Strengthen your critical thinking skills involving the collection, analysis, interpretation and communication of data.
4. Develop written and oral communication skills that are essential for all career trajectories.
5. Help you to connect with your graduate student peers, our department’s faculty and empower you to fully engage the resources available to you at CSU.

Course Structure

After several weeks of introduction to graduate school, the course is structured with one lecture (Monday) and one discussion session (Wednesday) per week. In lecture, a topic will be presented from different BSPM faculty either on their own work or key work from their field. At the end of this lecture period 1-2 papers will be assigned for the Wednesday discussion. To help develop communication skills, discussion sections will be student led and weekly leaders will be selected by the roll of dice.
Evaluation

The class will be evaluated on a 100-point scale. Details of assignments to follow.

- Participation in weekly discussions (40 points)
- Career trajectories, examples of appropriate CVs or resumes; Discussion and brief list of your goals (10 points)
- 3-5 minute presentation on your background and research interests (5 points)
- A research proposal or fellowship application (20 points):
  - In class Panel Review of fellow students research proposals (10 points).
  - A 4-5 page critical review of the foundational literature in your area of research (10 points).
  - Peer reviews of peer's critical review (5 points).