

NSCI S-100. Graduate Research Methods and Scholarly Writing in the Natural Sciences (CRN: 31322)

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This proseminar emphasizes hypothesis development, experimental methodology, critical interpretation of scientific data, and presentation, and explores controversial topics drawn from current medical and scientific journals. We will attempt to untangle the scientific evidence behind such questions as: Do genes control our behavior? Who can be infected with mad cow disease? Should we eat genetically modified crops? Will gene therapy save us? Assignments will consist of written and oral presentations. At the first class meeting, students must complete a writing assignment that demonstrates their graduate-level reading comprehension and capacity for coherent logical argument.