Syllabus  
CTPS 6102  
Journal Club

This course is designed for postdoctoral fellows to learn to critically read and evaluate scientific journal articles and discuss them with colleagues. Participants will attend weekly journal club meetings. This course is offered for those whose research requires them to remain at the bench most of the time, but who are required to attend departmental presentations and discussions. Each participant is expected to lead at least one discussion over a 12-month period.

Learning objectives:

After completing the course, students should be able to:
Discuss relevant research developments with colleagues in a way that evaluates their validity.
• Develop a discussion style that is not personally critical or judgemental of the other participants and their ideas.
• Plan discussions for journal club meetings
• Develop a discussion agenda that asks critical questions.
• Identify important journal articles that deserve discussion, and may prompt novel ideas about the topic.

Faculty: Postdoctoral scholar’s mentor or supervisor

Grading:
The course consists of reading, followed by discussion and evaluation. Grading will be based on:
• Attendance & Participation 50%
• Selection of a relevant journal article 20%
• Development of a discussion guide and leadership of the conversation, involving as many of the participants as possible 30%

In order to enhance discussion and facilitation skills, participants in this course may enroll in the Office of Educational Development workshop on facilitating discussion groups.

Course Evaluation
As part of the overall course grade, students also are required to complete an evaluation form at the end of each term. If the evaluation form is not received, an “I” or incomplete grade will be reported to the Office of Enrollment Services.
The Evaluation is designed to monitor the effectiveness of the lectures and other course activities. The results will be used to make any needed modifications for the following year of the course. This information also will be relayed to a separate committee that oversees the course. ALL STUDENTS are required to complete the evaluation forms. Anonymity will be preserved with this online survey.

No textbooks are required; journal articles are assigned and links provided at the time.

Disability/Special Accommodations Statement: It is the policy of the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) at Galveston to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and state and local requirements regarding students and applicants with disabilities. Under these laws, no otherwise qualified and competitive
individual with a disability shall be denied access to or participation in services, programs, and activities of UTMB-Galveston solely on the basis of the disability.

The University of Texas Medical Branch is committed to equal opportunity for students with disabilities. If you have a documented disability or would like to obtain information regarding services for students with disabilities, a complete copy of the “Student with Disabilities: Guidelines for Compliance” may be obtained from the Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity.

UTMB Honor Pledge
On my honor, as a member of the UTMB community, I pledge to act with integrity, compassion and respect in all my academic and professional endeavors.

Student Conduct and Discipline
Student Conduct and Discipline policy in the Institutional Handbook of Policies and Procedures (IHOP), Section 7.1.3 (http://www.utmb.edu/policy/ihop/search/07-01-03.pdf). “General Responsibilities: It is the responsibility of every student, faculty member and administrative official to initiate a disciplinary complaint when scholastic dishonesty or other misconduct is involved” UTMB IHOP Section 7.1.3. Student Conduct and Discipline: General Responsibilities.