

SYLLABUS
Mentoring in the Sciences
STO 6XX (2 credits)

Instructor: Dr. Mary Beth Leigh

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Class time and locations

MW 10:30-11:30

Course overview

Effective mentoring skills are extremely valuable for success as scientists and teachers, yet are rarely taught. This course provides a forum for graduate students to develop their mentoring philosophy and build effective mentoring skills. This course seeks to provide a discussion and learning environment for accelerating the process of learning to be a successful mentor. Through discussion of case studies, activities, writing projects, and readings provided in course materials, students will consider mentoring philosophy, articulate it, anticipate challenges and practice effective solutions to a variety of mentoring issues.

Prerequisites

There are no required prerequisites for this course, and no prior experience in mentoring is required. The course targets graduate students in all scientific fields, and is particularly geared toward graduate students in the Scientific Teaching graduate certificate program. Other early career participants (e.g. postdocs, new faculty) are welcomed, space permitting.

Course materials

- Required Textbook - Entering Mentoring: A Seminar to Train a New Generation of Scientists. J Handelsman, SM Lauuffer, CM Pribbenow, C Pfund. Howard Hughes Medical Institute. Itchy Cat Press. 2008.
- Other readings from texts, primary literature, and the press will be assigned on an ad hoc basis for background and discussion, and will be provided electronically by the instructor.

Course goals and Student Learning Objectives

- Design and evaluate various approaches to mentoring
- Develop a mentoring philosophy and articulate it in written form
- Build a personal step-by-step guide for initiating and maintaining a healthy mentoring relationship
- Develop a proposed project for a mentee
- Learn to communicate more effectively with mentees
- Prepare to work well with students of diverse learning styles, personal styles, experiences, ethnicities, nationalities and gender
- Prepare to resolve an array of mentoring issues through case studies, discussion, role playing and/or written projects.

Course format

Schedule (Subject to Change)

