Bio 700-- How to be a successful graduate student

Week 1: Introduction/Being a grad student

Purpose of course
Overview of topics to cover
Responsibilities as grad students—student, researcher, teacher
Outline of Ph.D. program and requirements
Assignment: Read Thompson and Stearns for next week

Week 2: How to be a successful graduate student

Discussion of Thompson and Stearns
You and your ego—learning how to learn

Week 3: Mentor/Trainee responsibilities-Derina Samuel

Who is a mentor?
Importance of having a mentor.
How does one choose a mentor?
Case study and discussion

Week 4: The Qualifying exams

What to expect
Do’s and Don’ts
Increasing your chances
Assignment: Read Chamberlin and Platt for next week
Chamberlin, T.C. 1890. The method of multiple working hypotheses.
Science 15:92-96.

Week 5: Approaches to research

Empirical vs. theoretical
Pattern vs. process
Discussion of Chamberlin and Platt
Writing Assignment: What constitutes knowledge

Week 6: Disciplinarity and Interdisciplinarity

Defining a discipline
Working within your discipline.
Working across disciplines
Assignment: Read Sanford et al. 2006 and prepare for discussion next week
Week 7: Interdisciplinary Toolbox exercise

Based on Sanford et al. 2006
Assignment: Evaluation of toolbox exercise

Week 8: Building a research project

Searching for interesting questions
Determining the scale of your project
Independence vs. collaboration

Week 9: Collaborative Research-Derina Samuel

Why collaborate?
Case studies to identify issues of collaboration
Could the identified issues be avoided?
Enhancing research collaboration

Week 10: Data acquisition, Management, Storage and Sharing- Derina Samuel

Discussion of Data Management video vignettes

Week 11: Discussion of ‘And the Band Played On’- Derina Samuel

Responsible scientific research
What is your obligation as a scientist

Week 12: Interacting with others and Getting help

Networking in the department
You and your committee
Networking in your field

Week 13: Where to be at the end of grad school

Positions in academia
Positions outside of academia
When to start looking
Building your C.V.