PBIO 8840 Grant Writing with a Focus on Plants and Microbes (2 credits)

Monday 2:30-3:45, 2507 Plant Sciences
Dr. Katrien M. Devos, 4107 Miller Plant Sciences, 542-0925, kdevos@uga.edu
Dr. Lisa Donovan, 3514 Miller Plant Science, 542-2969, ldonovan@uga.edu

Seminar Goal: The ability to write fundable grant proposals is an essential skill for scientists in academia. This course guides students through the fundamentals of research grant proposal writing, and provides insight into the submission and review process. The course is aimed at 2nd year graduate students conducting research on plants and microbes. Students are expected to develop a proposal on their dissertation research that is compliant to specified guidelines. Proposals will be critically evaluated during different stages of the proposal writing process, and the final submissions will be reviewed by fellow students, post-doctoral researchers with relevant expertise to the proposal topics and the course instructors. The final product should be a high quality dissertation proposal. During the course, the students will gain writing skills, logical and critical thinking skills, and an appreciation for the need to be precise and concise when preparing grant proposals.

All academic work must meet the standards contained in ‘A Culture of Honesty’. Students are responsible for informing themselves about those standards before performing any academic work. The link to more detailed information about academic honesty can be found at: http://www.uga.edu/ovpi/honesty/acadhon.htm

Class website: eLC

Tentative Seminar Schedule:
1/9 Lecture: How to write a great grant proposal (KMD)
Preparation of a preproposal (LD); Start working on the preproposal
1/16 No class, Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
1/23 Presentation and critique of preproposals
1/30 Presentation and critique of preproposals
2/6 Lecture: Writing tips (KMD)
Discussion of proposal guidelines (LD); Start working on proposal
2/13 What are reviewers looking for? Examples of (un)successful proposals and their reviews
2/20 Working Groups critique initial drafts of your proposals
2/27 Working Groups critique initial drafts of your proposals
3/6 No class – Spring break
3/13 Proposal budgets and supplemental materials (KMD)
3/20 Work on proposals
3/27 How review panels work & what do you do when a proposal is funded/not funded (KMD)
4/3 Work on proposal reviews
4/10 Panel critique & ranking of final proposals
4/17 Panel critique & ranking of final proposals
4/24 Panel critique & ranking of final proposals
5/3 3:30, Final exam period….results of funding panel announced
* Student Assignments Due:

**Assignment 1:**
By 5 pm on Thursday January 19th, e-mail your completed preproposal to Katrien Devos (kdevos@uga.edu)

**Assignment 2:**
On 1/23 or 1/30, give a 5 minute presentation of your preproposal to the class. Read and critique the preproposals from your fellow students assigned to you.

**Assignment 3:**
On Thursday 2/16 or Monday 2/20, turn in an initial draft of your research proposal for working group constructive critiques.

**Assignment 4:**
On 2/20, turn in set 1 of written reviews for working group proposals. Subset of students will present a brief summary of the proposal(s) assigned to them to the group and lead the constructive critique.

**Assignment 5:**
On 2/27, turn in set 2 of written reviews for working group proposals. Subset of students will present a brief summary of the proposal(s) assigned to them to the group and lead the constructive critique.

**Assignment 6:**
On 3/27 turn in your revised proposal.

**Assignment 7:**
On 4/3, 4/10, 4/17 and 4/24, turn in reviews for proposals being discussed that day, and prepare a "panel summary" for one of those proposals after it is critiqued.

**Grading policy: S/U**
Grading: A-F; To get an A grade, you must complete all 7 assignments to a high standard, and actively participate in each class (unless away for research, and prior arrangements have been made).