

2023 Seminar - Journl club description

Agron7002-02/Agron8002

Course Objectives

- Critical reading and thinking: Read, analyse, evaluate and critique journal articles.
- Presentation skills: Build confidence in public speaking and deliver an effective presentation.
- Communication skills: Participating in the Q&A and discussion sessions, and building a learning community together.
- Expand your knowledge in biometry and bioinformatics.

Expectation

Actively participates in class discussions.

Journal Club

Every week, we will divide the class into two groups, **leaders** and **participants**.

Leaders

One or two people will be the leaders each week. They will present and lead the discussion group in class. The goal for leaders is to present the journal article and lead the discussion group, so the participants (the rest of the class) can learn something from this article.

- Leaders work together to select a journal article they would like to present in class. Submit the journal article by Wednesday, the week before the presentation (9 days). Therefore the rest of the class has time to skim through it.
- Recommended presentation time: 20-25 minutes each (Hard limit 30 minutes). Discussion session: 50 minutes.
- Leaders prepare a few topics and key points for the discussion sessions. Leaders will also have access to pre-seminar questionnaires submitted by the rest of the class (anonymously), which can be used in the discussion sessions.
- Leaders are encouraged to work together closely and come up with a presentation plan. There is no fixed format, and some examples include the following;
 - Both present the summary of this article.
 - One presents the background information, and the other presents the scientific content of this article.

Journal article selection criteria:

- The journal article MUST be related to biometry or bioinformatics.
- The rest of the class can learn something from the article. Know your audience! Please do NOT pick a journal article that nobody can understand.
- It is recommended to avoid the following types of article;
 - Review articles.
 - 50+ pages of mathematical proof.
 - Short (1-2 pages) application notes or release notes.

Participants

The rest of the class. Skim through the article before the class and actively participate in the class discussion.

- You are required to skim through the article. Of course, you do not need to understand everything, but you should have some background knowledge and high-level ideas about this article.
- Actively participate in the discussion session.
- Submit pre-seminar questionnaires by Wednesday (2 days before the seminar).
 - What is puzzling or confusing for you? Which part do you have difficulty understanding? What would you like others to explain to you?
 - What are some interesting aspects you would like to discuss with the rest of the class?
 - What do you like or dislike about this article?
 - What background knowledge do you need to look up that helps you to understand this article?
 - What did you learn from this article?
 - Are there any questions you would like to ask/discuss with the rest of the class?
 - Others (please specify).

Lecture structure - Journal club

- Before presentation: ~ 5 minutes of pre-seminar discussions.
- Presentations: 2 x 25 minutes
- Break: ~ 10 minutes
- Group discussion ~ 50 minutes: People can ask new questions, or presenters select questions from the bank to discuss with the rest

Grading scheme

- **Candidates' job talks: 10%**
- **Leaders: Seminar presentation and discussion: 30%**
 - Peer grading: 10%
 - Lecturer: Presentation: 10%
 - Lecturer: Discussion session: 10%
- **Participants: In-class participation: 60%**
 - Peer grading: 10%
 - Lecturer: Pre-seminar questionnaires: 20%
 - Lecturer: In-class discussions: 30%