**Presentation Guidelines**

Paper presentations will be done by groups on papers throughout the semester and individually for your particular topic.

For the small presentations, you or your group can choose the exact format of the presentation. While the use of a formal presentation tool (i.e. powerpoint) is not required, the presentations should have a formalized and organized feeling.

The goal of the presentation is to clearly present the material and concepts to the class.

An important note – very few people can actually speak extemporaneously about something and pull it off. Especially something they’re just learning. So I have a secret – practice out loud. To yourself. To other people. To the wall….

And another thing – work with your own style. I jump around a lot and use my hands when I talk (you may have noticed). Until I realized I should work WITH that, I fidgeted and rocked and was really uncomfortable presenting. Now I’m just… entertaining. But I don’t make people sea sick with my laser pointer any more!

**Style**

1) Make sure you motivate the material – why should the listener care?
   a) If the audience tunes out in the beginning, you’ll never get them back.

2) Presentations should have a logical flow. They should tell a story.
   a) The language and level should be clear to your peers
   b) If you were confused about something, others probably are too…

3) Information should be presented clearly in the flow and visually
   a) Rework figures and add labels to make them clear
   b) If you are showing data, explain WHAT you are showing
   c) Use clever presentation tools to highlight things for added clarity

4) ALWAYS include references to anything that is not yours
   a) This includes facts, figures, pretty much anything, even snazzy schematics

**Content**

5) Present the big-picture story of the work (introduction/background)
   a) I believe that without that context, the work is nothing…. or, at least not very interesting.
   b) If the authors did a good job in the introduction, they should have given you that information
   c) Make sure you set up in the background/introduction why the work is being done and the type of work it is (i.e. experimental cell culture or mathematical model, etc)

6) Then move on to the story of the results
   a) Present each piece of information (like the graphs) that you find useful
   b) Explain what they did, why, and what they found
   c) Incorporate information from the methods or that you looked up
   d) Use the figures from the paper
      i. Feel free to highlight or make boxes on things
e) if you MUST use tables move through it slowly, explain what it is, and consider putting circles around things as you go.
f) Tell it as a story as you move from part to part

7) Then move do the discussion
   a) Talk about the author’s conclusions…and your thoughts on the work

8) Do your own synthesis and analysis
   a) Don’t just show data and say this parameter increases with this one, walk through what it means
   b) What do you think about how this work was done and how it contributes to the world