COURSE DETAIL

BIOLOGY IN MOVIES
Country Taiwan
Host Institution National Taiwan University
Program(s) National Taiwan University
UCEAP Course Level Lower Division
UCEAP Subject Area(s) Biological Sciences
UCEAP Course Number 39
UCEAP Course Suffix
UCEAP Official Title BIOLOGY IN MOVIES
UCEAP Transcript Title BIOLOGY IN MOVIES
UCEAP Quarter Units 3.00
UCEAP Semester Units 2.00

Course Description

The movies have long exploited biology as a source of bankable plot material. This trend has been even more intensified recently as biological discoveries and biotechnology advanced. Filmmakers capitalize recent discoveries to produce movies with science-based plots to an increasingly aware public. In view of their mass appeal, such movies play a significant role in society as disseminators of scientific facts and misinformation. They thus serve as a useful starting point for exploring various aspects of the relationship between science and the public perception of science. This course discusses various biological topics drawn from movies; explores public misconceptions and naiveté about science that are perpetuated by movies, as well as the extent to which such movies borrow from, or in some cases, even predict scientific fact. This course requires weekly screenings of a feature-length movie prior the one-hour lecture in the classroom. Films and topics are organized around biological themes. Discussion of films that feature different biological transformations focus on distinguishing between science fiction and science fact, understanding the uses of the underlying principles in scientific research, and exploring real world analogies to such fictional concepts as fly-human chimeras and reconstructed dinosaurs. Movies and related discussion topics include LORENZO'S OIL (1992) and the biology of rare genetic diseases; MISSION TO MARS (2000) and origin of life and life from other planets; ICE AGE (2009) and the origin of humans; OUTBREAK (1995) and the small pox virus debate.

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
LibEdu1069

Host Institution Course Title
BIOLOGY IN THE MOVIES

Host Institution Course Details
https://nol2.aca.ntu.edu.tw/nol/coursesearch/print_table.php?course_id=H01%2006...

Host Institution Campus
Host Institution Faculty
Host Institution Degree
Host Institution Department Liberal Education
Course Last Reviewed 2022-2023

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