Syllabus for MGG Journal Club

Faculty: Heather Lawson (lawson@wustl.edu), Joe Dougherty (jdougherty@wustl.edu)

When/Where: Class is weekly, Mondays from 1:00-2:00 PM, 6001D Couch Building

Overall Organization:
The first meeting is organizational. We will choose 4 topics to be covered over the semester. Students will sign up within these topics, choose an appropriate paper, and lead the discussion on the paper. The presenter emails the paper a week before presenting so that it can be posted to the course website:

http://lawsonlab.wustl.edu/journal-club/

Format of Discussions:
The presenter introduces the paper and walks the class through the first figure. Then as a group we will discuss each additional figure in turn. Please keep in mind that our goal is to have a discussion about the paper, not to restate figure legends. Ask yourself: What are the researchers trying to accomplish? Is it important (addressing an unknown, discovering something new, significantly improving a method)? Are the data/methods sufficient? Why or why not? If not can you think of an alternative? Did the researchers accomplish their goals? Are you convinced? Why or why not?

We encourage students to self organize ahead of time on who will take what figure, but this is up to you. Note, if you don’t have a figure, we still expect some participation in discussion, raising questions, sharing your relevant experience and expertise, etc.

Participation Expectations:
In addition to in-class participation, a short bulleted write up addressing the major findings, questions, and concerns of each paper should be emailed Sunday night before class. A template for the write-up is posted on the course website. (This is a new requirement this year, and was highly recommended by the prior class).

Our only metric for evaluating this P/F class is participation. Attendance is mandatory.

Up to two absences can be excused in the semester, provided the student submits a written peer-review style review within a week before or after the absence. Guidelines for this more extensive write-up is posted on the course website. This is meant to replicate the experience of the in-depth review of a paper that would occur during journal club. More than two absences will result in you repeating the JC an additional semester.