

SPLS Graduate Student Journal Club policy:

[To be added to next year's handbook]

Purpose: The ability to effectively read, discuss, and critique a broad range of primary literature is a fundamental skill as a scientist. Graduate student journal clubs serve as a training venue in this regard. Through journal clubs, first, you will learn process: how to question assumptions (written or unwritten), evaluate methods, and question the strength of conclusions, given a particular set of data. Second, you will learn content by reading about the latest results, or the classics, in particular fields. Third, you will learn to verbally communicate, and revise your understanding, through dialog with your peers. These skills take years of practice, and we expect that all students participate in journal clubs throughout their time in our programs.

Requirements: At a minimum, PhD students are required to take four semesters of for-credit journal clubs. At least two of these must be the School-wide journal club, PLS 695A. This course generally involves reading and discussing, in depth, one paper each week that is drawn from any of the diverse fields represented in our School. PhD students may substitute, with Graduate Student Program Committee approval, two of these four semesters with domain-specific journal clubs. Several such journal clubs are offered in our School and in closely related departments (e.g., MCB, EEB). To be considered as a substitute for PLS 695A, the alternative journal club must be in a similar format (reading and discussing primary literature each week), and a syllabus must be provided to the GSPC for review. MS students are required to take two semesters of PLS 695A and are encouraged to participate in additional domain-specific journal clubs.