

EEB C119B/C219B – Week 3 presentations and proposals

Presentation

The purpose of these presentations is to help you refine your goals and your model framework, so that you can move forward efficiently. By describing your system and your planned project in a concise manner, you will focus your thinking and get valuable feedback that will make your work go more smoothly. Please try to think things through as well as possible beforehand, but it is absolutely OK to have open questions or things you would like to discuss with the group.

Your presentation should be prepared in Powerpoint or PDF format slides and should **take no more than 10 minutes**. The rule of thumb is that each slide takes a minute (or more!) to describe, so try not to exceed 10 slides. Your presentation should accomplish the following:

- **Introduction:** Introduce your system.
- **Question:** State your research question. Why is it important?
- **Goal:** State your goal for the project. Do you hope to publish? Maybe? Or just gain experience?
- **Structure:** Describe your proposed model structure -- **show a diagram** with the state variables and arrows representing processes that link them. Discuss the crucial details (discrete vs continuous time, state variables, stochastic vs deterministic, population structure, etc).
- **Phases:** It is often a good idea to conduct your project in several phases, i.e. analyze a simple idealized model first, then introduce complications later. Describe your simplest version, then describe any additional complexities you plan to add later (and why).
- **Assumptions:** Describe major assumptions and simplifications you have made. Will they affect your analysis significantly?
- **Data (Optional):** Describe any data you hope to use, for parameter estimation or fitting of model output.
- **Analysis:** Discuss how you will analyze this model to address your question. What outcome(s) will you look at? How will you query the model?
- **Challenges:** What challenges do you foresee? Where are the key uncertainties or technical challenges in your planned work? How do you plan to address them?
- Anything else you think is pertinent, or that you would like to get feedback about.

Once again, aim for 10 minutes. It is essential that we have time to discuss and give you feedback. Given the number of students each day, you get about 15 minutes total (and we will enforce this limit strictly, out of fairness to other students), so you keep your thoughts focused!

Send your Powerpoint file (or a PDF version of it) to Ana (acrgomez@ucla.edu) and Jamie (jilloydsmith@ucla.edu) **by 10 AM on the day you are presenting**. **Use a filename that includes your name**. This will let us get the files organized on our computer, and will give you time to **practice what you will say** instead of editing the slides right up to the moment class starts. This is an essential part of giving good presentations. You will be graded on the content and delivery of your presentation.

Written proposal

The written proposal will give you another chance to refine your plan (in a bit more detail) and get feedback. These proposals should not be long -- **do not exceed a single-spaced page of text**, plus up to one page for diagrams to show your model structure. Cover all the points outlined above, and make changes to address feedback you got from your presentation. Please cite any key papers or other references that are important to your work (bibliography can be outside the one-page limit). If you are aiming for publication then you'll need to show your work will go beyond previous studies.

Please pay attention to the length limits, and format your proposal nicely, with headings. You will see how important this is when you look at the documents from the others in the class. Submit your proposal by email to Ana and Jamie **by 1 PM on Friday, January 24**. We prefer PDF but Word (.docx) is acceptable.