



**COVID-19  
Town Hall**

**BIS198 – The COVID Crisis Town Halls**  
1 credit P/NP – Section 001 CRN #56390

The College of Biological Sciences has organized a series of virtual Town Halls for students to hear from physicians, scientists, lawyers, a journalist and an economist about the scientific, health care and broader societal issues around the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Course Instructor: Dr. Rebecca Calisi-Rodríguez** (Associate Professor of Neurobiology, Physiology and Behavior, College of Biological Sciences)

**Co-Instructor: Dr. Mark Winey** (Professor of Molecular and Cellular Biology, Dean of the College of Biological Sciences)

**Questions:** Contact Dr. Rebecca Calisi-Rodríguez ([rmcalisi@ucdavis.edu](mailto:rmcalisi@ucdavis.edu))

**Student Expectations:**

- Hear from experts in the field of virology and public health about the biological intersections in virology, evolution and ecology, computational biology, molecular genetics, and other disciplines to better understand the novel coronavirus and issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Understand how complex, global problems like this viral pandemic raise a variety of societal issues, identify those issues and explore the range of thought and action related to these issues, such as health care disparities, food chain security, and ethical and constitutional challenges.
- Have the opportunity to experience integrating the “A” into STEAM (“Art” into “Science, Technology, Engineering, Math”) for purposes of absorbing, processing, and sharing knowledge while also providing a potential coping mechanism and/or outlet for expression.

**Grading Criteria:**

Students are expected to attend the Facebook Live Town Halls or view the recorded sessions. This course will be graded as P/NP based on the quality and assessment of the final project submitted by the student. Students will produce a product of their choosing inspired by the Town Halls. This can take the form of a piece of writing (eg. An opinion piece, blog, essay, thoughtful twitter thread, etc), short video (your thoughts recorded, an interview(s), a mini-film, etc), or other art (e.g. studio/visual art (such as photographs, painting, print, drawing, sculpture, ceramic, etc), poetry, spoken word, music, etc.). Select works will be shared on a public platform associated with this course.

## TOWN HALL SCHEDULE:

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**Week 1 – March 30<sup>th</sup> /April 1: 4:00-5:00 pm – Sam Díaz Muñoz and Brad Pollack, UC Davis**  
Basic virology and public health

**NOTE: ALL FOLLOWING TOWN HALLS WILL OCCUR ON FRIDAYS, 3:30-5PM**

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**Week 2 – April 10<sup>th</sup> – Prof. Jonathan Eisen, UC Davis**  
Impact of genomics to study emerging infectious diseases

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**Week 3 – April 17<sup>th</sup> – Dr. James Hildreth, President & CEO, Meharry Medical College and Dr. Allison Brashear, Dean UC Davis, School of Medicine**  
Health care disparities.

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**Week 4 – April 24<sup>th</sup> – Prof. Jonna Mazet, UC Davis, Director of OneHealth Institute**  
Emerging infectious diseases

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**Week 5 – May 1<sup>st</sup> - Prof. Angela Haczku, MD, PhD, UC Davis**  
Physician who treated first US community transmission COVID case at UCD Health

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**Week 6 – May 8<sup>th</sup> – Prof. Lisa Ikemoto, UC Davis Law School**  
Bioethics, health care law, public health law, law & policy

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**Week 7 – May 15<sup>th</sup> – Prof. Daniel Sumner, UC Davis, Director, University of California Agricultural Issues Center**  
Food supply-chain issues related to the coronavirus pandemic

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**Week 8 – May 22<sup>th</sup> - Richard Harris – Science reporter, NPR**  
Reporting a pandemic

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**Week 9 – May 29<sup>th</sup> – Prof. Elizabeth Jo – UC Davis Law School**  
Constitutional issues raised by the pandemic. What are the limits of the government's power?

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*Week 10 – None – (Instruction ends on Thursday 6/4)*