BIO 475 Special Problems
Fall 2017

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Text and Materials: none

Course Requirements:
Lab participation: Minimum of 3 hours per week per credit hour, and an overall minimum of 60 hours per semester.
Review of recent literature pertaining to the assigned project.
Research summary due 12/11/15.

Research Summary:
The research summary is due no later than 5:00 p.m. on December 11, 2015. This document should summarize the assigned literature and fully describe the methods and theories that you learned as a result of your experience in the lab throughout the semester and should also include how this knowledge will apply to your career in the future.

Course Evaluation:
All students are required to complete a course evaluation at the end of the semester. Failure to complete this evaluation will result in a 1% deduction in your final grade for the course.

Grading:
Grades will be based on the percent completion of the assigned project and research summary.
90 – 100 % project completion = A
80 – 89 % project completion = B
70 – 79 % project completion = C
60 – 69 % project completion = D
Less than 60% project completion = F
Failure to submit the research summary will result in the deduction of one letter grade.

Academic Integrity:
Academic Integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty
Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in the act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one’s own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one’s paper without giving the author due credit.
Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp

ANY act of academic dishonesty will result in receiving a grade of F for the course and will be reported to the student’s dean.
Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy:
Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average. The circumstances precipitating the request must have occurred after the last day in which a student could withdraw from a course. Students requesting a WH must be passing the course with a minimum projected grade of C.

Students with disabilities:
To obtain disability related accommodations and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, Room 325, 468-3004/ 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided.

Student Counseling Center:
Rusk Building 3rd Floor
(936) 468-2401
Email: counseling@sfasu.edu
The Student Counseling Center is available free of charge to students and is staffed with professional therapists to meet a variety of needs. All interactions with the Student Counseling Center are guaranteed confidential. Licensed Counselors are available from 8:00a.m.-5:00p.m. Monday-Friday. The department is closed on certain holidays, Spring Break and Winter Break when the university is closed. If you are in need of assistance after hours or on the weekend please call: University Police: (936)468-2608 or MHMR Crisis Line: (800)392-8343. If the situation is life threatening please dial 911.

Course Description:
Independent investigations by students guided through individual conferences with the professor willing to work with them.

Student Learning Outcomes:
Students who complete Special Problems will be able to:
1. Execute the scientific method and critically evaluate data.
2. Work collaboratively in a laboratory setting.
3. Give oral reports on a weekly basis in lab meetings.
4. Write a summary discussing the experimental methods, results and conclusions of their individual investigation.

Program Learning Outcomes:
Each of the student learning outcomes listed above address the Biology Department Program Learning Outcomes as follows:
#1 Demonstrate a good knowledge base in biological concepts and be able to integrate knowledge with critical thinking skills to become problem solvers. Knowledge base will include: levels of complexity (molecular/cellular through population/communities/ecosystems); biological principles and processes.
#2 Clearly articulate scientific information in oral form. Provide clear structure and transitions; demonstrate audience-appropriate purpose, agenda, language and style.
#4 Be able to design, carry out and analyze experiments to answer biological questions, including: scientific methods and instrumentation; safe and appropriate use of laboratory equipment; experimental design; data analysis; and familiarity with professional standards in science.
#6 Career building, demonstrate preparation for future career and educational goals utilizing the knowledge and training during their academic program by: awareness of personal competencies (strengths and weaknesses) and an understanding of professional and ethical behavior.