Supervised Practicum in Advanced Biology
BIO475 018
Fall 2019

Instructor: Dr. Stephen Wagner
Department: Biology
Email: swagner@sfasu.edu
Phone: 468-2135; Please provide a local telephone number when requesting a return call.
Office: Miller 223 (or 207)
Office Hours: M, W 8:30-9:30 am; R 11:00 – 12:00; T 1:00-3:00 pm, or by appointment.
Class meeting time and place: TBA

Text and Materials: Related literature to include (but not limited to) the citations below.

Course Description: Individual study and/or laboratory research conducted under the supervision of a biology faculty member. Studies will focus on microbiological aspects Moody Foundation study currently being conducted in biology.

Number of Credit Hours: 2

Course Prerequisites and Corequisites: Permission of instructor and department chair.

Program Learning Outcomes:
Program Learning Outcome #1: The student will 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
Program Learning Outcome #2: The student will clearly communicate scientific information; provide clear structure and transitions; demonstrate scientific tone, language, and form.
Program Learning Outcome #5: The student will demonstrate preparation for future career and educational goals utilizing the knowledge and training during their academic program.

General Education Core Curriculum Objectives/Outcomes: This course is not included in the general education core curriculum.

Student Learning Outcomes:
Students who complete BIO 475.013 will be able to:
1. Master preparation and use of microbiological media and materials. (PLO 1, 5).
2. Isolate, grow and characterize pure cultures of bacterial species from Moody Gardens Research Plots Soils (PLO 1).
3. Perform Microbial Community Analysis of soil samples from Moody Gardens Research Plots utilizing Biolog EcoPlates (PLO 1).
4. Report results of the research activities following the format of a scientific paper (PLO 1, 2, 5).

Course Requirements:
Upon satisfaction of all student learning outcomes above, a grade will be assigned as follows:
P=Passed; F=Failed.

Attendance Policy: Because this is an independent study course attendance during each week of the semester is at the discretion of the student, provided that she meets regularly with the instructor to discuss course responsibilities and progress made. For a 2-hr lab-based course, the student should average 3 hours per week conducting research and/or activities that support that research.

Absences are only excused as outlined in the university handbook:
“Regular and punctual attendance is expected at all classes, laboratories, and other activities for which a student is registered. For those classes where attendance is a factor in the course grade, the instructor shall make his/her class policy known in writing at the beginning of each term and shall maintain an accurate record of attendance. Regardless of attendance, every student is responsible for course content and assignments.
It is University policy to excuse students from attendance for certain reasons. Among these are absences related to health, family emergencies, and student participation in certain University-sponsored events. Students are responsible for providing documentation satisfactory to the instructor for each class missed. Students with acceptable excuses will be permitted to make up work for absences to a maximum of three weeks of a semester or one week of a six-week summer term when the nature of the work missed permits."
In the case of absences caused by participation in University-sponsored events, announcement of such absences by the Vice President for Academic Affairs will constitute an official excuse. Faculty members should submit a written explanation of the absence, including the date, time and an alphabetical listing of all students attending to the office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs for publication.

Academic Integrity (A-9.1): 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. I expect everyone to do her own, original work. This includes all exams, quizzes, and assignments. We will take appropriate disciplinary action, as described in the University Student Handbook, against anyone that does not comply with this policy.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty
As stated in the university handbook:
"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 an 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."

Acceptable Student Behavior: Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the Student Conduct Code, policy D-34.1). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.

Students with Special Needs: Students who require special accommodations for this course will be provided such accommodations within established university guidelines. Students who are requesting support services from SFA are required to submit documentation through the Office of Disability Services to verify eligibility for reasonable accommodations; the institution must review and evaluate that documentation. 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.