Special Problems (Independent study)
BIO 475, 1 hr
Fall 2019

Instructor: Dr. A. Van Kley  
Department: Biology  
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Phone: 468-2569  
Office: S236  
Office hours: TR 11:00-12:00, W 14:00-16:00 and 19:00-20:00, or by appointment  
Class meeting time and place: each Tuesday at 14:00 room S236  
Text and material: Laboratorial protocols, TEXTBOOK: Molecular Biology: Principles of Genome Function by Nancy Craig et al. (several chapters)

Course description: Individual study/or laboratory research conducted under supervision of a biology faculty member

Number of credit hours: 1

Course Prerequisites & Co-requisites: none

Student learning outcomes:  
Student who complete BIO 475 will be able to:  
1. Read and understand molecular laboratory protocols  
2. Perform and understand PCR, gel electrophoresis techniques  
3. Draw conclusions from experimental results and effectively summarize them into a written form

Course requirements:  
The student will-  
Read, understand and explain the instruction for the basic molecular techniques.  
Perform gel electrophoresis techniques, DNA extractions  
A written report summarizing the results will be required, with a minimum length of 5 double-spaced pages and the reference list.

Course calendar:  
1. Spend at least 3 hour a week (~ 40 hours/semester)  
2. Meet every Tuesday  
3. Submit a report by May 7
Grading policy:
The written report summarizing the research finding will be used to assess the student’s competence in four major areas: theoretical knowledge, knowledge of research methods, ability to synthesize information, ability to support and defend positions. Pass/ no pass

ACADEMIC HONESTY: All exam work submitted for grading must be exclusively your own. Any dishonesty or cheating may result in a final score of zero (“F”) for the course. SFA Policy A-9.1 is summarized as: “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 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.” (http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp)

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and 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. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS: Standard classroom decorum is expected. Please arrive in class a bit early as we will be starting promptly on time. Please do not carry on a separate conversation that might be distracting to other students. Behavior that interferes with the learning environment will not be tolerated. If necessary, students violating these standards will be removed from the classroom and reported to the Student Rights and Responsibilities Office. Student who asked to leave the classroom will be required to visit with me in my office before being allowed to return to class

WITHHELD GRADES, SEMESTER GRADES POLICY (SFA POLICY A-54): http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/semester_grds.asp