BIOL 7000, Introduction to Research

Spring Semester 2011, Section A (CRN# 21246, 2 Credit hours)
Department of Biology, College of Arts & Science, Valdosta State University

Lecture & Discussion (BC 2022): W 6:00 p.m. 7:50 p.m.

Instructor: Dr. Brian C. Ring
Office: BC 2092
Office hours: **T & R** 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. or by appointment.
Phone: 249-4841 (Dept. office 333-5759)
Email: bcring@valdosta.edu **(please use BlazeView first)**

Pre-Requisites: Acceptance into the graduate program in biology.

Course Description: An introduction to the scientific method, primary research literature, methods of literature review and scientific writing. A research proposal is required by the end of the semester. This course is to be taken during the student's first semester in the graduate program (if possible). In addition, students will learn about procedures for achieving approval for working with biohazards, hazardous materials, recombinant DNA, and animals in a compliant manner (IACUC); tour the biology department facilities, learn about various faculty research areas and appropriate health & safety measures, and how to submit a grant proposal through VSU Office of Sponsored Programs & Research Activities (OSPRA).

Course Objectives: Upon completion of this course the student should be able to:

1) Meet all requirements and deadlines for successful completion of the MS thesis (**BO1-BO4**);
2) Perform a literature search and prepare a research proposal on a significant biological question (**BO1, BO2, BO3, GE3, GE4, & GE7**);
3) Engage in writing and peer review of research proposals (**BO2, BO3, BO4, GE3, GE7, & GE8**);
4) Utilize appropriate university & departmental institutions for performing compliant research (**BO2 & GE5)**.

These course objectives support the VSU Biology Department Graduate Program Outcomes # 1-4 and the University General Educational Outcomes # 3, 4, 5 & 7 as listed in the VSU Graduate Catalogue (see below).

VSU Biology Educational Outcomes (BOs):

BO1. To demonstrate competency in factual content and interpretation of the major biological concept areas of cell and

grade will be based upon satisfactory completion of assigned projects. 25% of the grade will be based on attendance and participation in faculty presentations and discussions.

Tentative Schedule: Please note that dates are tentative and will change depending on faculty availability and the rate at which material is covered.

January

Wednesday	12 –First class meeting, Introduction, Sample proposal & review
Wednesday	19 - Speaker – Brian C. Ring, Proposal Critique & Discussion
Wednesday	26 - Biosafety & Recombinant DNA Approval- Jennifer Turco

February

Wednesday	2 - Library Instruction- Laura Wright, Odum Library room 2634 (second floor)
Wednesday	9 - Animal Use & Care – Theresa Grove
Wednesday	16 - Speaker - Jim Loughry, **Proposal Outline Due**
Wednesday	23 - Speaker - OSPRA- Barbara Gray

March

Wednesday	2 - Speaker – TBA
Thursday	3 - Midterm, last day to drop without penalty
Wednesday	9 - Speaker – TBA
Week of	14-18 – Spring Break
Wednesday	23 – Speaker – TBA, **Proposal Rough Draft Due**
Wednesday	30 – Speaker – TBA

April

Wednesday	6 - Speaker – TBA
Wednesday	13 - Speaker – TBA
Wednesday	20 – Speaker – TBA
Wednesday	27 - Health & Safety- TBA, **Final proposal draft due**

May

Exam week	No Class

Dropping A Course Without Penalty: In order to officially drop a course without penalty, a student must obtain and fill out a drop/add form from the Registrar's Office, acquire appropriate signatures, and return the completed form to the Registrar's Office before the designated date (March 3, 2011

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