Honors Seminar (BIOL 470H) Spring 2015

Instructor: Dr. Ken McCravy
Office: 348 Waggoner Hall     Phone: (309) 298-2160
Office Hours: 1-2pm M & W, 2-4pm TH     Fax: (309) 298-2270
Email: KW-McCravy@wiu.edu

Description and Objectives

Honors Seminar 470H is a component of the Department of Biological Sciences Honors Program. The Department Honors Program is a research-based program that usually requires 2 academic years to complete. Honors Seminar (470H, 1hr) is usually taken in Fall and Spring semesters during junior year. Honors Research (477H, 3hrs) is usually taken as a senior in the Fall semester and Honors Thesis (478H, 3hrs) is usually taken in the subsequent Spring semester. See the “Requirements for Departmental Honors” for more information.

The main objectives of Honors Seminar (470H, spring semester):

- perform a scientific literature search on your research topic
- prepare a research grant proposal
  - CAS Undergrad Proposal: $300, Due Date: February 13, 2015
  - Honors Proposal: $450, Due Date: March 2, 2015
- prepare a curriculum vitae (CV)
- make and present a poster based on your research grant proposal
  - Biology Research Symposium: April 3, 2015
  - Undergraduate Research Day: April 15, 2015

Prerequisites

At least junior standing with Honors in the Department of Biological Sciences.

Instruction

This course consists of a single one-hour session each week. The course schedule is considered tentative and may be changed with adequate advanced notice to the students.

Grading Policy

Grades will be based on attendance, the research proposal, the CV, and the poster presentation. The research proposal and poster presentation will follow the established guidelines set forth by the Department of Biological Sciences, College of Arts and Sciences, and the Centennial Honors College.
Americans With Disabilities Act/Disability Resource Center

“In accordance with University policy and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), academic accommodations may be made for any student who notifies the instructor of the need for an accommodation. For the instructor to provide the proper accommodation(s) you must obtain documentation of the need for an accommodation through Disability Resource Center (DRC) and provide it to the instructor. It is imperative that you take the initiative to bring such needs to the instructor's attention, as he/she is not legally permitted to inquire about such particular needs of students. Students who may require special assistance in emergency evacuations (i.e. fire, tornado, etc.) should contact the instructor as to the most appropriate procedures to follow in such an emergency. Contact Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 298-2512 for additional services.”

Departmental Plagiarism Policy

“Plagiarism is the theft of someone else’s words, work, or ideas. It includes such acts as (1) turning in a friend’s paper and saying it is yours; (2) using another person’s data or ideas without acknowledgement; (3) copying an author’s exact words and putting them in your paper without quotation marks; and (4) using wording that is very similar to that of the original source but passing it off as entirely your own even while acknowledging the source.” V.E. McMillan in Writing Papers in the Biological Sciences (Bedford/St. Martin’s Press, New York, p16)

This includes information in textbooks or laboratory manuals, theses, all writing assignments and images. The faculty of the department attempt to monitor students writing assignments (essay exams, papers, lab reports, and other writing assignments or exercises) for incidents of plagiarism. If plagiarism is found, the faculty will discuss the situation with the student and indicate to the student the penalty for this academic dishonesty. Potential penalties include those cited on the academic dishonesty section of the WIU web page. Attention – your research proposals and theses may be subject to word similarity software, plagiarism detection software, or related applications.

Western Online Website

There is a Western Online website for BIOL 470H. To access it, go to http://westernonline.wiu.edu, type in your ECOM username and password, and click LOGIN. Once you have logged in, click on the BIOL 470H course link. The site will contain the syllabus, grades, handouts, and so forth. See me if you have questions or problems, or contact the UCSS helpdesk at ucss@wiu.edu or (309) 298-2704.
Other Information

The following are links to University policies on Student Rights and Responsibilities, Academic Integrity, Grade Appeals, and Final Exams. It is the student’s responsibility to be familiar with this information. Each student should access and carefully read this information. If you have questions about any of the information, feel free to ask.

Student Rights and Responsibilities: http://www.wiu.edu/provost/students.php

Academic Integrity: http://wiu.edu/policies/acintegrity.php

Grade Appeals: http://www.wiu.edu/policies/gradeapp.php

Final Exams: http://www.wiu.edu/policies/finexam.php

Grading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research References</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Outline</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Proposal</td>
<td>75</td>
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<td>Curriculum Vitae</td>
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<td>Research Poster</td>
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<td>Poster Presentation</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS</strong></td>
<td><strong>350</strong></td>
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Final grades will be based on the following scale:
315 and above = A
305 – 314 = A-
294 – 304 = B+
284 – 293 = B
273 – 283 = B-
263 – 272 = C+
252 – 262 = C
242 – 251 = C-
231 – 241 = D+
221 – 230 = D
210 – 220 = D-
Below 210 = F

Attendance – each unexcused absence will result in a reduction of one grade level (e.g. A to A-, etc.). The instructor will determine if an excuse is acceptable. Three total absences (excused or unexcused) will result in an F for the course. Tardiness is considered an absence.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/19</td>
<td><strong>NO CLASS</strong> – Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/26</td>
<td>Course Introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/2</td>
<td>Scientific Literature</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/9</td>
<td>Research References and Research Outline Due; Work on CAS Undergraduate Research Grant Proposal*</td>
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<td>2/16</td>
<td>Curriculum Vitae Tips</td>
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<td>2/23</td>
<td>Revise (if needed) Proposal for Honors Grant</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/2</td>
<td>Honors Grant Proposal Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/9</td>
<td>Turn in CV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/16</td>
<td><strong>NO CLASS</strong> – Have a nice break!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/23</td>
<td>Preparation of Posters for Biology Research Symposium**</td>
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<td>3/30</td>
<td>Continue Preparation of Posters for Biology Research Symposium</td>
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<td>4/6</td>
<td><strong>NO CLASS</strong> – Reward for Biology Research Symposium Participation</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/13</td>
<td>Revise (if needed) Posters for Undergraduate Research Day***</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/20</td>
<td><strong>NO CLASS</strong> – Reward for Undergraduate Research Day Participation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/27</td>
<td>Thesis Preparation Overview</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/4</td>
<td>Course Wrap-up</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/11</td>
<td><strong>NO CLASS</strong> – Finals Week</td>
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*Proposal due to the Dean’s Office by Friday, February 13 at noon.
**Biology Research Symposium is Friday, April 3; abstracts due Friday, March 13
***Undergraduate Research Day is Wednesday, April 15; abstracts due Friday, April 3
Requirements – Departmental Honors

Students who complete the requirements for departmental honors in biological sciences will receive recognition on their official transcripts. To qualify for departmental honors, students must be accepted into the Centennial Honors College, complete all the requirements for a biology major with an option in either botany, microbiology, or zoology, satisfy requirements in the cognate areas (6 hours of General Honors Coursework, 1 hour GH299, maintain overall GPA of 3.5 and GPA of 3.5 for all honors courses), and complete the following requirements:

1. Honors Seminar (470H, 2 semester hours total). Usually taken junior year.

Fall (1 semester hour, 1 weekly meeting)
- Attend weekly research seminars presented by faculty members on various topics
- Student identified three choices for faculty advisor
- Honors coordinator matches student with a faculty advisor based on faculty openings (faculty advisor is consulted) available and student choices

Spring (1 semester hour, 1 weekly meeting)
- Discuss literature search techniques
- Research proposal preparation
- Curriculum Vitae preparation
- Presentation of research poster at Undergraduate Research Day
- This course performed with close supervision of Honors Coordinator and your faculty research advisor.

2. Honors Research (477H, 3 semester hours). Usually taken senior year, fall semester.
- Conduct research under direction of faculty research advisor using your research proposal as a guideline.
- Student must arrange meeting times with faculty research advisor.

3. Honors Thesis (478H, 3 semester hours). Usually taken senior year, spring semester. Do not register for this course unless you will defend your thesis that semester. You need to get signed permission from your faculty research adviser to register for the course. You can only register through the Chair of the Department of Biological Sciences.
- Student prepares a thesis based on research performed.
- Student must defend the thesis by oral examination before a faculty committee.
- Student must arrange meeting times with faculty advisor.
- Student must also present completed research at Undergraduate Research Day
BIOL 478H (Honors Thesis) Registration Consent Form

Instructions:
- You need this form to register for BIOL 478H.
- Take this form to your faculty research advisor.
- Have your advisor sign this form.
- Take this form to the Chair of the Department of Biological Sciences to register for BIOL 478H.

My Honors Student _______________________________ has my permission to register for BIOL 478H.

My Honors Student plans on defending his/her thesis by the end of that semester that he/she is registered for BIOL 478H.

__________________________________________________
Honors Faculty Research Advisor Signature