Course Coordinator

David O. Peterson
Associate Head for Undergraduate Programs in Biochemistry and Genetics

Course Description

Biochemistry and Genetics majors are required to take four SCH of BICH/GENE 491 as part of the degree plan. One SCH of these four is taken as a writing-intensive course in which students will write a thesis to report the results of their laboratory research performed in BICH/GENE 491. The goal is to produce a document in the style of a research publication in biochemistry/genetics using the process that research scientists use to prepare such documents. That is, drafts will be submitted for review by the research supervisor, and suggested changes will be incorporated into revisions until a final document is approved.

Registration Requirements

1) Undergraduate major in biochemistry or genetics
2) Application form signed by research advisor agreeing to read and respond to drafts of written work

Tasks and Grading

1) Each student must attend 3 writing workshops offered by the University Writing Center and Aggie Honor System Office. These workshops deal with issues related to editing and plagiarism.
2) Drafts of sections of the thesis must be submitted to the research advisor according to the schedule in the table below. After receiving comments and suggestions from the research advisor, students will incorporate them into the final thesis.
3) After the thesis is approved by the research advisor, the final version must be submitted to the Biochemistry and Genetics Undergraduate Programs Office.
4) Grades will be determined as described in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Approximate Length</th>
<th>Due Date (semester week)</th>
<th>Grade Weighting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Draft of Introduction</td>
<td>500-1000 words</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Draft of Methods</td>
<td>500-1000 words</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Draft of Entire Thesis</td>
<td>2000 words</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Thesis</td>
<td>2000 words</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Text

Style Guide recommended by the research advisor
Academic Integrity

“An Aggie does not lie, cheat, or steal or tolerate those who do.”

Upon accepting admission to Texas A&M University, a student immediately assumes a commitment to uphold the Honor Code, to accept responsibility for learning, and to follow the philosophy and rules of the Honor System. Students will be required to state their commitment on examinations, research papers, and other academic work. Ignorance of the rules does not exclude any member of the TAMU community from the requirements of the processes of the Honor System.

For additional information please visit: [http://aggiehonor.tamu.edu](http://aggiehonor.tamu.edu)

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Policy Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact Disability Services, in Cain Hall, Room B118, or call 845-1637. For additional information, visit [http://disability.tamu.edu](http://disability.tamu.edu).
Request for Registration in BICH/GENE 491 “W”

Submit completed form to the Biochemistry and Genetics Undergraduate Programs Office (BICH 104) to be registered for the course during open registration

Name (print)          UIN

BICH 491          GENE 491
Course Number (circle one)

Semester          Year

Working Thesis Title

Research Advisor (please print clearly)

Research Advisor Agreement

I agree to read and provide constructive comments on drafts of my student’s thesis on a schedule that allows my student to complete his/her thesis and obtain my approval of the final version by the end of the semester.

Signature of Research Advisor          Date

Approved:
Undergraduate Programs Office in Biochemistry and Genetics          Date entered in COMPASS