



Department of Biology
 1801 E. Cotati Avenue
 Rohnert Park, CA 94928
 (707) 664-2189

Sec #: _____

Class #: _____

Perm Code: _____

BIOLOGY 597: THESIS PREPARATION

Name: _____

ID No.: _____

Email: _____@sonoma.edu

Phone: _____

Units: 1 2 3

Semester/Year: _____

Semester Assignment: *(See master syllabus for details)*

Proposed Schedule of Student/Faculty Conferences:

Basis upon which grade will be assigned:

Instructor/Advisor: _____

Department Chair: _____

Dean: _____

STUDENTS:

1. Complete this form, have your instructor sign, and leave in the Biology office (Darwin 200) for the remaining signatures.
2. Your form will be ready for you to pick up in 2-3 days; it will also be emailed (to your sonoma.edu) as an attachment with information for adding the course to your schedule. **It is your responsibility to add the class to your schedule!**
3. Questions? Email biology@sonoma.edu or stop by Darwin 200 during office hours.

Sonoma State University
Thesis Preparation in Biology (BIOL 597)

Instructor: Variable
Office phone: Variable

Office location: Variable
E-mail: Variable

Course description: Individual Study, 3 hours per unit; This is a variable unit course that allows graduate students who have not advanced to candidacy to explore the scientific literature, learn research and analysis techniques associated with their discipline and prepare a thesis proposal. Participants will work closely with their Thesis Advisor to develop a plan for Thesis preparation activities.

Course Materials: Course materials will vary widely based on subdiscipline and stage of Thesis project progression. Necessary materials will be determined in collaboration with the Thesis Adviser.

Grading: Grades will be assigned by the Thesis Adviser after evaluation of how student met specific learning objectives established in the Biology 597 Contract. Letter grades will be determined based on aforementioned requirements and incremental (plus/minus) grades will be given.

Expectations: Students are expected to engage in a minimum of 3 hours of related activity per week per unit. Activities will depend on the stage and subdiscipline of the student and will be determined in consultation with their Thesis Adviser.

Course Learning Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, students will have made adequate progress towards the following:

Demonstrates Knowledge Base

- 1) Student demonstrates appropriate use of scientific literature related to project
- 2) Student demonstrates mastery of fundamental concepts for subdiscipline in Biology

Displays Critical Thinking

- 1) Student generates insightful, skillfully designed hypotheses for original research
- 2) Student establishes significance of thesis research in a broader context
- 3) Student develops methods of investigation that are sufficient to answer research questions
- 4) Student proposes analyses that are appropriate to answer research questions

Effective Written Communication Skills

- 1) Student uses appropriate formats for Thesis proposal
- 2) Student uses form and language that is crisp, clear, and succinct
- 3) Student demonstrates effective organization to contribute to understanding of subdiscipline

Effective Oral Communication Skills

- 1) Student demonstrates use of appropriate presentation format and organization
- 2) Student demonstrates and engaging presentation style

Assignments

Assignments include any combination of the following: literature review; training in research techniques in the laboratory or field; training in analytical techniques; exploration of hypothesis construction; meetings with appropriate collaborators, agencies, or other institutional personnel; completion of applications necessary for research (permits, IACUC, IRB); completion of funding proposals; production of written draft of Thesis proposal; or construction of oral presentation for Thesis project.

Course Conduct and University Policies

Civility: Show respect for your fellow students and keep in mind that this is a learning environment. If for some reason issues arise during the semester, please inform the instructor of the situation.

Campus Policy on Disability Access for Students

If you are a student with a disability, and think you may need academic accommodations, please contact Disability Services for Students (DSS), located in Salazar Hall, Room 1049, Voice: (707) 664-2677, TTY/TDD: (707) 664-2958, as early as possible in order to avoid a delay in receiving accommodation services. Use of DSS services, including testing accommodations, requires prior authorization by DSS. See SSU's policy on Disability Access for Students:

<http://www.sonoma.edu/uaffairs/policies/disabilitypolicy.htm>.

Academic Integrity

Students should be familiar with the University's Cheating and Plagiarism policy:

http://www.sonoma.edu/UAffairs/policies/cheating_plagiarism.htm. Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at Sonoma State University and the University's policy, require you to be honest in all your academic course work. Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person's ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified.

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drops, academic renewal, etc.

How to Add a Class: <http://www.sonoma.edu/registration/addclasses.html> has step-by-step instructions.

Registration Information: <http://www.sonoma.edu/registration/regannounce.html> lists important deadlines and penalties for adding and dropping classes.

Other SSU policies: Be sure you understand the other policies that affect you as a student at SSU for this course. <http://www.sonoma.edu/policies>

Grade Appeal Policy: <http://www.sonoma.edu/policies/grade-appeal-policy>

Diversity Vision Statement: <http://www.sonoma.edu/diversity>