

BICH/GENE 491-9XX
Research with Writing Credit (1 credit hour)
Syllabus

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.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students will be expected to:

1. Locate and summarize published results related to their research project.
2. Incorporate comments and suggestions on draft documents into a revised version.
3. Write a cogent document describing results of research in the style of a discipline-specific journal.
4. Utilize appropriate software to manage literature references and citations.

Registration Requirements

1. Undergraduate major in Biochemistry or Genetics
2. Application form signed by the faculty research supervisor agreeing to read and respond to drafts of written work.

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 or the processes of the Honor System. For additional information please visit: <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>.

Assignments and Grading

1. By the end of week 3 of the semester, students must complete the following assignment. Completion must be documented by submission of a signed form to both the research supervisor and the Biochemistry and Genetics Undergraduate Program Office. (This form is available in the Biochemistry and Genetics Undergraduate Programs Office upon request)

a. Watch each of these videos available through the TAMU Writing Center:

Literature Review Searches: Before You Write, You Have to Find

<<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y1hG99HUaOk>>

Science Writing: Practice Makes It (Almost) Perfect

<<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-zPZtgVQSfc>>

An Introduction to Writing (Good) Abstracts

<<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MADC23TAHTg>>

b. Become familiar with either **EndNote** or **RefWorks** as a tool to manage references and create citations. These web sites are good places to start.

<http://guides.library.tamu.edu/content.php?pid=212509&search_terms=endnote>

<<http://writingcenter.tamu.edu/2011/composing-process/citation-documentation-research/refworks/>>

2. Drafts of sections of the thesis must be submitted to the faculty research supervisor according to a schedule set up by the research supervisor. A suggested schedule is presented in the table below. After receiving comments and suggestions from the research supervisor, students will incorporate them into the final thesis.

3. After the thesis is approved and graded by the research supervisor, 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.

Assignment	Approximate Length	Due Date (semester week)	Grade Weighting
Draft of Introduction	500-1000 words	4	10%
Draft of Methods	500-1000 words	6	10%
Draft of Entire Thesis	2000 words	12	20%
Final Thesis	2000 words	14	60%

Text Style

A style for an appropriate scientific journal will be recommended by the research supervisor.

Request for Registration in BICH/GENE 491 W

Submit completed form to the Biochemistry and Genetics Undergraduate Programs Office (BICH 104)

Name (print) UIN

BICH 491 GENE 491

Course Number (circle one)

Semester Year

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 a final grade from me by the end of the semester.

Signature of Research Advisor Date

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