SC/BIOL 4200 3.00 Selected Readings in Biology

Course description:

A reading course offered by special arrangement between an individual student and a faculty supervisor which focuses on a specialized area of biology of mutual interest. The subject matter must be significantly different from that of the student's honours thesis. A student may take this course only once for credit. One term. Three credits.
Note: Open only to students with a science grade point average equal to or greater than 6.0.

Course director: Dr. Paula Wilson *pjwilson@yorku.ca*

Information about this course:

The course is designed for a student who has a genuine interest in a particular area of Biology for which no course exists in the department. In such a case, the student must identify a faculty member with expertise in that area, and speak to the faculty member about acting as a supervisor for this course. A list of faculty members and their research interests may be found on the Biology web site.

Students should be in their senior year of study. Supervisors must be full time faculty members in the Biology Department at York University.

To enroll, obtain an enrolment form from 108 FS or the Undergraduate Biology website, fill out the form with your supervisor, then bring it to 108 FS for review by the course director. If you are eligible to take the course, an enrolment window will be opened for you.

The grading scheme for this course is flexible and set by the supervisor, but the work involved must be equivalent to a three credit course, and the academic level is at the 4000 level; thus work should involve substantive amounts of critical reading and analysis. As a general guideline, at least two major pieces of written work (25–30 pages each, double spaced) should be completed – for example, a literature review followed by a more analytical piece of work, such as a meta-analysis or research proposal (in the style of a research grant). Oral presentations and writing aimed at non-academic audiences (such as a Wikipedia entry) have also formed part of the evaluation for this course. The course expectations and grading scheme should be indicated on the enrolment form.

Academic integrity:

Students are expected to be familiar with and follow York University's policies regarding academic integrity. Please consult the website below for more details:

http://www.yorku.ca/academicintegrity/students.htm

Reminders: Any time you present a statement of fact, you should back it up with a scientific reference, (which should be the **primary** work(s)). It is considered plagiarism if you present unattributed ideas as your own. You must **not** include original phrases (or, worse, entire sentences) from your sources. It is important to summarize by putting things in your own words – and this is more than changing a word or two! Even following the order of particular sentences in a paragraph (or paragraphs in a paper) is unacceptable, if you are presenting the same information.

Note: for students planning to take BIOL 4000 and BIOL 4200 – it is inappropriate to receive double credit for a single body of work. Students taking both BIOL 4000 and BIOL 4200 must ensure that the two pieces of work do not overlap and ideally should involve different supervisors. The objectives and thrust of the two pieces of work must be distinct. If the two courses are taken at different times, a copy of the work from the first course must be available at the completion of the second course.

SC/BIOL 4200 3.00 Selected Readings in Biology Registration Form

Term _____ Year _____

Student Name_____ Student # _____

Email Address _____ Phone # _____

Supervisor _____

Brief description of BIOL 4200 topic:

Assessment:
e.g. Literature review [40%], research proposal [40%], presentation [20%]

Student Signature_____

Supervisor Signature _____

Course Director Signature _____

Note: for students planning to take BIOL 4000 and BIOL 4200 – it is inappropriate to receive double credit for a single body of work. Students taking both BIOL 4000 (especially the 3 credit option) and BIOL 4200 should ensure that the two pieces of work do not overlap. The objectives and thrust of the two pieces of work should be distinct. If the two courses are taken at different times, a copy of the work from the first course must be available at the completion of the second course.

If BIOL 4000 completed, list thesis topic: