

**Thesis Research/Writing, Biology 599 Variable credit 1 to 6 hours (sections 001-006)**

Course Manager: Dr. Bruce Schulte

Course Instructor: By Arrangement

Office Hours: By appointment with course instructor

Each semester faculty members in the Department of Biology can serve as mentors for a thesis research/writing project. The general framework of the course is the same each term but an individual instructor will create specific components to the syllabus depending on the needs of the student and the type of research/writing.

As a typical rule for a 1 credit course, a student would spend 3 hours of involvement at least for a graduate level course. This is derived from the formula that for one hour in class a student should spend 2 h out of class working on the course per week. Therefore, a 2 credit hour Biol 599 is at least 6 h/week commitment and a 3 h Biol 599 is a 9 h/week commitment, etc. This is just a general formula because the difficulty and quality of the time also have to be considered. The student and faculty research mentor should work out the time commitment, responsibilities and mechanisms of evaluation before the student enrolls in a section (1-6 credit hours) of Biol 599.

The following serves as a general syllabus.

Meeting Location	To be determined by Instructor
Meeting Time	To be determined by Instructor
Prerequisites	
Course Description	Conduction of research, analysis and/or writing on a project related to the completion of the MS in Biology Degree with thesis
Required Text	To be determined by Instructor
Other	1-6 hour

**Objectives - Students will:**

- 1) Be exposed to the scientific process through hands-on learning
- 2) Gain experience with scientific procedures
- 3) Be introduced to the primary literature, and
- 4) Learn to construct and carry out a scientific study

**Learning Outcomes: from this class students should be able to**

- 1) Explain the role of scientific research in the scientific process
- 2) Discuss ideas and procedures related to the specific area of research under study
- 3) Formulate scientifically valid research questions and experimental approaches to said questions
- 4) Write in a scientifically appropriate manner

**Grading:** Attendance and participation will be a component of the grading.

Suggested additional mechanisms of evaluation include but are not limited to the following:

- 1) Research notebook (paper or electronic format)
- 2) Scientific manuscript or similar scientifically based article from the research
- 3) Scientific presentation (e.g., oral or poster at a professional meeting)
- 4) Experiential paper
- 5) Mentor's evaluation of performance based on preset goals
- 6) Student's evaluation of own performance based on preset goals

### ***Course Policies***

<b>Academic Accommodation</b>	Students seeking academic accommodation for a disability must follow University policy by furnishing the professor with an accommodation letter from Student Disability Services.
<b>Academic Honesty</b>	Students are expected to adhere to the University's Academic Dishonesty Policy. Please review this policy. <b>The minimum penalty for academic dishonesty in this class is course failure.</b> <i>Dishonesty, such as cheating, plagiarism, misrepresenting of oneself or an organization, knowingly furnishing false information to the University, or omitting relevant or necessary information to gain a benefit, to injure, or to defraud is prohibited.</i> Student Conduct Code: <a href="http://wku.edu/judicialaffairs/?page_id=70">http://wku.edu/judicialaffairs/?page_id=70</a>
<b>Attendance</b>	Success in this course depends on regular attendance and full engagement in all class activities. Attendance is expected and required. <u>Professional Courtesy</u> : If you know that you will not attend class, please attempt to let the instructor know this as early as you can. Your instructor will extend you the same courtesy to the extent possible. Leaving class early or arriving to class more than 10 minutes late will result in an absence being recorded. You would not arrive to a job late on repeated occasions. Similarly, this would not be appropriate behavior in your courses.
<b>Cell Phones</b>	Cell phones must be turned off during class or when requested by the instructor if not in a classroom setting. Failure abide by cell phone policy set can lead to dismissal from a particular session, a reduction in grade and/or failure in the course.
<b>Civility</b>	Students are expected to communicate in a civil manner in academic interactions in and out of the classroom. This means that interactions with both peers and professors are to be carried out in a polite, courteous, respectful and dignified manner. Failure to behave in a civil manner may result in disciplinary action as described by the Student Conduct Code. <i>Students are encouraged to actively support ethical behavior in all aspects of University and community living; civil discourse among all members of the campus community, treating each student with dignity and respect regardless of personal differences.</i>
<b>Withdrawal Policy</b>	The last date to withdraw without financial or academic penalty is available at the WKU website for the academic calendar.