

BSc 595

Biological Literature and Techniques

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I. Course Material:

This course serves as a capstone to your MS-Biology degree. There are two important components to it: the BSc 595 paper and the Exit Tests.

The BSc 595 paper is a comprehensive literature review of a subject chosen by you in consultation with your faculty advisor. You cannot take this course if you have not already produced a basic draft of the paper in the semester prior to your expected semester of graduation. The literature review must be based on current peer-reviewed literature, it must address a relevant problem, and it must be written in your own wording. Plagiarized material will result in failure of the course and, consequently, you will not be able to graduate. Please consult closely with your faculty advisor as you work on your BSc 595 paper.

The Exit Tests must also be completed in order for you to receive a grade in this class. These tests are mandated by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) for university accreditation. Your faculty member will assign specific test material to you when you are ready to take the exit tests. You do not need to study for the exit tests. **The scores on the exit tests will not count toward your grade in this course nor will they determine whether or not you graduate.** Thus, your only requirement is that you complete them.

Be sure that you consult with your faculty advisor regarding your progress and that you keep on track in order to graduate.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

1. Students will be able to formulate a hypothesis or identify a scientific problem.
2. Students will successfully retrieve authoritative current literature from online sources.
3. Students will synthesize the literature to develop a comprehensive discussion of the problem or hypothesis that they developed.
4. Students will communicate their understanding of the problem and their synthesis of the literature in an oral presentation.

III. Course Schedule

Completion of course materials will be scheduled by the faculty advisor based on the student's progress on assigned materials. The BSc 595 paper, in its final draft, must be completed two week prior to the last day of classes in the semester.

IV. Grading Scheme

The grade in this course is 100% dependant on the student's performance in the completion of the BSc 595 paper and the oral defense. Thus the grade will depend on how well the student writes the drafts and final paper, how well they meet timely deadlines in the course, how well the present the paper in their oral defense, and how well they answer questions posed to them by their graduate committee during the defense. **Students must complete the Exit Tests in order to receive a grade in this course.**

V. **Obligatory Statements:**

A. Plagiarism is a criminal activity. You must cite all sources of information. Copying of material, whether parts of sentences, whole sentences, paragraphs, or entire articles, will result in a score of zero for your assignment and can result in further disciplinary action.

****Disclaimer: The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the schedule of the class. Any alterations will be announced in class, in eCollege or via email by the instructor. Students who do not attend class, check eCollege or their email assume responsibility for missing adjustments to the course.**

B. **TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS**

The following information has been provided to assist you in preparing to use technology in your web-enhanced course.

The following technology is required to be successful in this course.

Internet connection – high speed recommended (not dial-up)

Word Processor (Microsoft Office Word – 2003 or 2007)

Access to University Library site

Access to an Email

Additionally, the following hardware and software are necessary to use eCollege:

Our campus is optimized to work in a Microsoft Windows environment.

This means our courses work best if you are using a Windows operating system (XP or newer) and a recent version of Microsoft Internet Explorer (6.0, 7.0, or 8.0).

Courses will also work with Macintosh OS X along with a recent version of Safari 2.0 or better. Along with Internet Explorer and Safari, eCollege also supports the Firefox browser (3.0) on both Windows and Mac operating systems.

It is strongly recommended that you perform a “Browser Test” prior to the start of your course. To launch a browser test, login in to eCollege, click on the ‘myCourses’ tab, and then select the “Browser Test” link under Support Services.

C. ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

Access and Log in Information

This course will be utilizing eCollege to enhance the learning experience, eCollege is the Learning Management System used by Texas A&M University-Commerce. To get started with the course, go to: <https://leo.tamuc.edu/login.aspx>.

You will need your CWID and password to log in to the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact Technology Services at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

D. COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Texas A&M University-Commerce provides students technical support in the use of eCollege. The student help desk may be reached by the following means 24 hours a day, seven days a week. If you experience

issues while taking your exams or at any other point, feel free to contact the support desk.

- 1. Chat Support: Click on 'Live Support' on the tool bar within your course to chat with an eCollege Representative.**
- 2. Phone: 1-866-656-5511 (Toll Free) to speak with eCollege Technical Support Representative.**
- 3. Email: helpdesk@online.tamuc.org to initiate a support request with eCollege Technical Support Representative.**
- 4. Help: Click on the 'Help' button on the toolbar for information regarding working**

E. Withdrawal Policy

Every student has the right to drop the course without penalty until the drop-date. Students dropping the course during this period will be given a DP (drop while passing). A grade of DP is GPA neutral, but a grade of DF counts as an F on your transcript.

If you choose to stop attending class, you may be dropped from the course due to excessive absences. If you are not satisfied with your grade in the course and wish you to drop, it is YOUR responsibility to drop the course. Once a grade of DP or DF has been submitted, it cannot be changed.

A student may drop a course by logging into their myLEO account and clicking on the hyperlink labeled 'Drop a class' from among the choices

found under the myLEO section of the Web page.

F. Student Conduct

All students are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times. You are adults and will be treated as such. Discriminatory, rude, and inappropriate language will not be tolerated in this class and students will be asked to leave or drop the class (these same rules apply for online discussions). If a student continues to act in the same manner during future classes, the instructor reserves the right to drop the student from the course.

G. Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is the pursuit of scholarly work free from fraud and deception and is an educational objective of this institution.

Texas A&M University-Commerce has explicit rules and regulations governing academic dishonesty and academic misconduct. As the University states, “All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment.” These policies are stated in detail in the Student’s Guide Handbook. Each student is expected to read this document and abide by the contained policies. These university policies will be followed in this class. The minimum penalty for an act of academic dishonesty will be the assignment grade of 0 on the examination or homework assignment. The maximum penalty is expulsion from the University.

Texas A&M University-Commerce further does not tolerate **plagiarism** and other forms of academic **dishonesty**. Conduct that violates generally accepted standards of academic honesty is defined as academic dishonesty. "Academic dishonesty" includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism (the appropriation or stealing of the ideas or words of another and passing them off as one's own), cheating on exams or other course assignments, collusion (the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing course assignments), and abuse (destruction, defacing, or removal) of resource material.

If you are unsure what constitutes plagiarism and how to avoid it. Visit the following websites:

<http://www.plagiarism.org/>

<http://www.unc.edu/depts/wcweb/handouts/plagiarism.html>

<http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml>

H. Requests for Special Accommodations

Requests from students with disabilities for reasonable accommodations must go through the Academic Support Committee. An individual instructor cannot decide to make accommodations for you without that Committee's approval.

I. ADA 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 have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact: **Office of Student Disability Resources and Services**

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library 132

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

[Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)