

SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY

Department of Biology

BI 298, BI 299

Biological Research I

New 2/17/2004

I. Catalog Description and Credit Hours of Course:

Faculty-directed independent research project. May be taken for 1 or 2 hours of credit. Each course may be repeated for credit once.

II. Prerequisite(s):

BI 190 and consent of instructor and department chairman (an abstract of the research problem to be studied is required for approval by the chairman). The student must have successfully completed at least 15 credit hours of courses with a cumulative GPA of 2.0.

III. Purposes or Objectives of the Course:

To acquaint the student with scientific investigative techniques. To provide the student with experience in experimental design, data collection, and evaluation of results.

IV. Expectations of Students:

The student is expected to plan the proposed research in consultation with the supervising instructor. An abstract of the research problem to be studied required for approval by the chairman is due by the end of the second week of classes. Periodic evaluative conferences will be conducted by the supervising instructor. The instructor may expect either a summary paper, presentation at the Student Research Conference, or similar culminating activity at the end of the semester.

V. Course Content:

There is no fixed schedule or specific course content. The student must be aware that there has to be prior approval of the project, planning must precede data collection, and the entire project must be done in close cooperation and consultation with the supervising instructor. Research projects typically require at least 4 hours of work per week per credit hour earned.

VI. Textbook and/or Supplemental Materials: None

VII. Basis of Student Evaluation:

A grade in the course will be based on the criteria below. The instructor will notify students of the relative weights of the following components at the beginning of the course.

A. Planning the project

- B. Carrying out the project - independence, systematic work habits, regular consultation, interest, understanding of the work, etc.
- C. Culminating activity for the project.