

Guidelines for Directed Research

BIOL 499V Biological Problems.

The purpose of this course is to provide undergraduates majoring in the life sciences at UHM an opportunity to undertake directed reading and research projects under the mentorship of professionals in the “biology community,” on and off campus. The faculty member coordinating the course is the Biology Program Director, currently, Dr. Sherwood Maynard, 956-8303, biology@hawaii.edu. His role is to represent the university and ascertain that standards of academic experiential education are being met. This is monitored through review of the proposal, progress reports and the final report. The mentor’s role is to provide overall guidance and day-to-day on site supervision of the student carrying out the project, and to be the principal resource person with the expertise to authenticate the content and quality of the project. Credits may vary from one to three. For each credit, a student is expected to spend 3-4 hours of “activity” on the project per week (minimum) for a sixteen-week long semester. Thus, one credit would be earned from a project requiring 50—70 hours. The course may be taken only for a letter grade (A to F with pluses and minuses). The Biology Program Director and the mentor consult on the final grade which is based on the final report and the quality of day-to-day research performance in the lab.

Under special circumstances, upon agreement of the mentor and the director, a student may be given a grade of Incomplete, which extends the project completion date to November 1 for Spring and Summer enrollments, and to April 1 for Fall enrollment.

To obtain an authorization code to register for the course, the student must provide a written proposal with the following information:

*Project title.

*Student’s name, major, degree, student i.d. number, contact information.

*Mentor’s name, affiliation, approval signature, date, contact information.

*NARRATIVE:

Introduction providing background, significance and objectives of project with reference source citations (literature, web sites, books, interviews, etc.).

Methods, materials, timeline.

*List of references cited.

*Resume or c.v.

During the semester:

Written (e-mail OK) progress reports highlighting accomplishments and problems subsequent to previous progress report and plans for the period between “now” and next progress report. Report due dates: The first Monday of each month of the semester.

At the end of the semester: A written report will be submitted in the format of a scientific paper. Due the last day of instruction for the semester (usually the Wednesday or Thursday before finals).

Progress and final reports to be submitted to Biology Director, biology@hawaii.edu and mentor.