BI 497/498 Honors in Biology Seminar

CONTACT INFORMATION

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INSTRUCTOR(S)

(Biology faculty) – students register for the BI 497 (Fall) or BI 498 (Spring) section taught by their research mentor

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Honors in Biology Program provides students with an opportunity to work closely with faculty who serve as intellectual and technical mentors in their exploration of biological research. BI 497 and BI 498 are 2-credit research seminars, providing exposure to the broad range of current science in the Biology research community.

All Honors in Biology students complete one semester of either BI 497 or BI 498. Students attend the weekly Biology Department Seminar. Alternative seminar series may be attended if approved by the research mentor. Students also complete a writing assignment that reviews the research of one of the speakers during the semester; this paper will be graded by the student’s research advisor. The faculty advisor is responsible for monitoring seminar attendance.

PREREQUISITES

BI 107, BI 108 and at least two additional Biology courses. Seminar is for juniors or seniors currently enrolled in or intending to apply to the Honors in Biology Program. Juniors enrolling in BI 497 or 498 must have a current faculty research mentor (see the Biology website or contact the Undergraduate Programs Coordinator for more information).

OBJECTIVES

The objective of this course is to provide students an opportunity to become engaged in the Biology research community and learn about a broad range of current research. Specifically, this course will: 1) expose students to cutting-edge research in all areas of Biology through the department-wide seminar series; 2) through seminars, present students with current research in the student’s field of interest; 3) help students develop the ability to process and critically evaluate ideas and data in current biological research; and 4) strengthen students’ scientific writing skills through the writing project due at the end of the semester.
TEXTBOOKS & OTHER MATERIALS

There is no text for this course. In preparation for writing their review paper, students will read published papers of one of the speakers during the seminar series as well as relevant research by other investigators. The research mentor will provide guidance on the selection of a topic for review and in the selection of papers to read.

GRADING

The final course grade is based on regular attendance at seminars (50%) and the review paper (50%). The student’s research advisor assigns the course grade. A minimum grade of B+ is required to graduate with Honors in Biology.

CONDUCT

All students are expected to know and understand the provisions of the Academic Conduct Code (http://www.bu.edu/academics/policies/academic-conduct-code/). Cases of suspected academic misconduct will be referred to the Dean’s Office.