**Syllabus**

**Course Information**

BIO 496. Research Literature. *< Section # >*

1 credit

*< Semester and Year >*

Meeting time: Varies with research mentor.

Location: Varies with research mentor.

**Instructor Information**

Dr. Sam Prins

Office: Bioscience 2001C

Phone: 568-6733

Email: prinssc@jmu.edu

Office hours: see <http://www.jmu.edu/biology/office_hours.shtml>

**Goals of the Course**

To learn how to do library research, to learn to read and analyze scientific papers, and to learn to write an in-depth paper or proposal for future research activity.

This course will fulfill the following Department of Biology Academic Objectives:

1. Formulate a hypothesis and identify relevant variables necessary to test that hypothesis

2. Analyze and interpret data

3. Evaluate a statement, hypothesis, or claim using different kinds of evidence, including qualitative and quantitative observations and experimental results.

4. Locate and use reliable sources of scientific information

5. Critically evaluate a paper from the primary scientific literature.

6. Synthesize information and concepts, and apply that knowledge to new situations.

**Nature of Course Content**

**Course Description**

BIO 496. Research Literature (0, 4). 1 credit. *Offered fall and spring.*

Students pursue literature research in a selected area of biology. Students must contact and make arrangements with a supervising instructor in the term prior to registration. May be repeated for a maximum of two credits when course content changes. Offered as credit/no credit only. *Prerequisite: GPA of 2.5 or greater.*

**Assignments and Due Dates**

Varies with research mentor. Students will work independently, with regular meetings with the mentor. At the end of the semester, an in-depth paper or proposal will be prepared.

**Methods of Evaluation**

**Expectations**

Varies with research mentor. General expectations include:
Regular meetings with the research mentor.
Development of an outline and schedule for writing.
Teamwork and cooperation with the mentor’s research group.
Attendance and active participation in the mentor’s research group meetings.
Attendance and active participation in the BioSymposium (Spring semesters only).

The research mentor may require a research paper, poster, journal log, annotated data report or written summary statement for the completion of the course.

**Grading**

Credit / no credit only. Grades of WP and WF will not be given out in this class.

**Requirements and Policies**

**Required Texts**

None

**Academic Honesty**

Policies for academic honesty and plagiarism can be found here: <http://www.jmu.edu/syllabus/>

**Adding/Dropping Classes**

Policies for adding and dropping courses can be found here: <http://www.jmu.edu/syllabus/>

**Disability Accommodations**

Policies for disability accommodations can be found here: <http://www.jmu.edu/syllabus/>

**Inclement Weather Policies**

Policies for inclement weather can be found here: <http://www.jmu.edu/syllabus/>

**Religious Observation Accommodations**

Policies for religious observation accommodations can be found here: <http://www.jmu.edu/syllabus/>.