

BIOL-UA995: Biology Senior Honors Thesis Course

A. Course Syllabus

BIOL-UA 999
Senior Honor's Thesis Course
Spring 2015

Course Date/Time: Wed: 3:30 - 4:45

Instructor: Gloria Coruzzi

Office Hours: By appointment

Email: gc2@nyu.edu

Course Objectives:

- 1) To write a senior thesis (for submission)
- 2) To present and defend your thesis to your faculty committee.

Grading Policy:

- Final course grade will be dependent on how well you write (45%) and defend (45%) your thesis, as well your grade based on performance in this class (10%).
 - In-class performance is based on participation during student presentations.
- The members of your Thesis Defense Committee will determine your grade for the written and defense components.
- Students who are planning to graduate with Honor's in Biology must receive at least an A-grade for both the written thesis and in their defense.
- Students who are planning to graduate with Honor's in Biology must also maintain a GPA of at least 3.65, overall and in the major.

Recommended Resources:

I. BOOKS & CHAPTERS

1. **Writing Papers in the Biological Sciences.** 5th Edition.
Victoria E. McMillan.
Bedford/St. Martin's Publisher
Excerpt: Chapter 4: Writing Lab Reports and Research papers
(see PDF in Course Documents)
2. **Scientific Papers and Presentations**
Martha Davis
Academic Press (3rd edition)
Excerpt: Chapter 3: Organizing and Writing a Rough Draft
(see PDF in Course Documents)
3. **A students guide to writing in the life sciences**
The President and Fellows of Harvard University, 2nd edition (2007)
http://writingproject.fas.harvard.edu/files/hwp/files/life_sciences.pdf
Excerpt: Chapter 2: Research Papers (p. 17-26).
(see PDF in course documents)

II. ARTICLES (See PDFs in Course Documents)

4. **Tips on Scientific Writing, by Michael Morrison**
<http://www.nhn.ou.edu/~morrison/Teaching/WritingTips.pdf>
5. **Guidelines for Writing a Scientific Paper, by S. Moloy**
<http://www.sci.sdsu.edu/~smaloy/MicrobialGenetics/topics/scientific-writing.pdf>
6. **Writing a scientific Research Article**
<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/biology/ug/research/paper.html>
7. **How to construct a Nature Summary Paragraph (Abstract)**
http://www.cbs.umn.edu/sites/default/files/public/downloads/Annotated_Nature_abstract.pdf

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Module 1: WRITING YOUR THESIS (20 PAGE LIMIT)

	<u>Topic:</u>	<u>Relevant Materials:</u>
Jan 28	1) Writing your Thesis (PPT: Instructor).	1) Format of Thesis 2) Senior thesis Defense Committee form 3) Samples of Theses 4) References for scientific writing
	Note: Students may use their written research paper from either the Internship Study or Independent Research course and adjust format to conform to thesis format.	
Feb 4	No Class	
Feb 11	RESULTS DRAFT (DUE Monday Feb. 9 at 5pm) 1. Use Specific Aims to organize results section into subheadings. 2. Organize Figures and Tables into each Aim 3. Write draft of each result section.	
Feb 18	MATERIALS and METHODS (DUE Monday Feb. 16 at 5pm)	
Feb 25	INTRODUCTION (DUE Monday Feb. 23 at 5pm)	
Mar 4	DISCUSSION & ABSTRACT & TITLE (DUE Monday Mar. 2 at 5pm)	
Mar 11	Final copy of Thesis due for consideration of University-Department Awards	
Mar 18	<i>Spring Break</i>	

Module 2: PRESENTING YOUR THESIS (25 slide MAXIMUM)

Mar 25	2 Student Presentations	20-25 min
April 1	2 Student Presentations	20-25 min
April 8	2 Student Presentations	20-25 min
April 15	2 Student Presentations	20-25 min
April 22	2 Student Presentations	20-25 min
April 29	2 Student Presentations	20-25 min

IMPORTANT DEPARTMENT DEADLINES:

Thurs, April 23: Thesis Committee Form Due

Monday, April 27 1) **Thesis Defense**
Scheduling of Thesis defense in the remaining 2-3 weeks of the semester

Monday, May 11: **Last day to schedule Thesis Defense**