

# **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  
**Email:** [g2@nyu.edu](mailto:g2@nyu.edu)

**Office Hours:** By appointment

### **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.** 5<sup>th</sup> 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 (3<sup>rd</sup> 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (2007)  
[http://writingproject.fas.harvard.edu/files/hwp/files/life\\_sciences.pdf](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](http://www.cbs.umn.edu/sites/default/files/public/downloads/Annotated_Nature_abstract.pdf)

## **BIOL-UA995: Biology Senior Honors Thesis Course**

### **Module 1: WRITING YOUR THESIS (20 PAGE LIMIT)**

	<u>Topic:</u>	<u>Relevant Materials:</u>
Jan 28	1) Writing your Thesis (PPT: Instructor).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) Format of Thesis</li><li>2) Senior thesis Defense Committee form</li><li>3) Samples of Theses</li><li>4) References for scientific writing</li></ul>
	<b>Note:</b> 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	<b>RESULTS DRAFT (DUE Monday Feb. 9 at 5pm)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Use Specific Aims to organize results section into subheadings.</li><li>2. Organize Figures and Tables into each Aim</li><li>3. Write draft of each result section.</li></ul>	
Feb 18	<b>MATERIALS and METHODS (DUE Monday Feb. 16 at 5pm)</b>	
Feb 25	<b>INTRODUCTION (DUE Monday Feb. 23 at 5pm)</b>	
Mar 4	<b>DISCUSSION &amp; ABSTRACT &amp; TITLE (DUE Monday Mar. 2 at 5pm)</b>	
Mar 11	<b>Final copy of Thesis due for consideration of University-Department Awards</b>	
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**