Biology 4600/Biological Research Methods
BIOL 4600-0/CRN 20122
Room: Conger Hall (CONH) 231
Lecture Hour: 1:00 to 2:50 PM Friday

Syllabus Addendum*
Fall 2015

I. Instructor/School

Instructor: Dr. Marvin E. Holtz
Office: Conger Hall 205
Office Telephone: 229-391-5113
E-Mail: mholtz@abac.edu
Office Hours: Monday
8:00 to 8:30 AM and 10:00 to 11:30 AM
Tuesday
8:00 to 9:15 AM and 11:00 AM to 12:15 PM
Wednesday
8:00 to 8:30 AM; 10:00 to 11:00 AM and 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM (AAC)
Thursday
10:45 to 11:45 AM
Friday
8:00 to 8:45 AM; 12:00 to 12:45 PM and 2:50 to 3:20 PM

School:
Science and Mathematics (229-391-5100)

II. Required Textbook

None

III. Attendance Policy

Biological Research (BIOL 4600-0/CRN 20122)

Acknowledging the fact that exposure to any mass of knowledge is prerequisite to learning that knowledge, regular attendance is required for successful completion of the course requirements. Instruction and information within the classroom is unique and is generally difficult to obtain and/or unavailable outside of the classroom in original form. Therefore, regular attendance will ensure that students receive the most appropriate instruction and timely information regarding any course modifications, announcements, etc. It is the student’s responsibility to contact the instructor prior to any anticipated absence or immediately after an unanticipated one (during the next regularly scheduled class which the student attends). The instructor will read the class roll or circulate a sign-in sheet at the beginning of class. Any student arriving after the class roll has been recorded will be marked absent. In addition, any student who misses more than one class may receive a final class grade of “F.” Students who miss more than one class may withdraw from the class without penalty prior to the drop without penalty date (October 5, 2015).

* A copy of the generic course syllabus for BIOL 4600 is available upon request. The generic course syllabus includes general information pertaining to the College and the School of Science and Mathematics.
IV. Withdrawals/Dropping Class

The last day that a student may withdraw from a course without penalty is October 5, 2015. After this date, a student withdrawing from class will receive a WF. Any student who does not officially withdraw from class will receive a final course grade of “F.” Please refer to the current online Abraham Baldwin College Catalog for specific details concerning the policy on withdrawing from a course.

V. Academic Dishonesty

The College-wide policy regarding academic dishonesty is described in the current online Abraham Baldwin College Catalog. For purposes of this course, a zero-tolerance policy regarding all forms of academic dishonesty will be strictly followed.

VI. Grading

In accordance with the professional judgment of the instructor, the following point system will be used to determine the final course grade:

150 Written Critique of One Biological Research Article (Due 10/9/2015)

Each student will select one biological research article that consists of original research directly related to the topic designated by the instructor on the first day of class. Each article must follow the scientific method and be approved by the instructor. Once approved, each student will write a detailed and specific critique of the study and/or written presentation and submit a copy of the original article and the typed critique on the date the assignment is due.

150 Midterm Examination (9/18/2015)

Students will write a detailed and specific critique of a research article supplied by the instructor.

50 Student-Led Class Discussion of Research Article

Each student will select one research article that consists of original biological research and follows the scientific method. The subject matter of the article must be directly related to the topic designated by the instructor on the first day of class. The article must be approved by the instructor one week prior to the class discussion. Each student will then lead a class discussion that will consist of an overall class analysis and critique of the article. The instructor will provide a sign-up sheet and each student is required to sign up for a specific date/time for the class discussion that he or she will lead. Each student should prepare to lead a discussion that will range from 20 to 30 minutes in length. The article selected for the Written Critique assignment may not be used to satisfy this requirement.

200 Completed Research Proposals (Due on the date/time of the Group Presentation)

Students will work in assigned groups and design a research proposal/study that conforms to the principles of the scientific method and other parameters discussed within the classroom. The subject matter of the proposal must be directly related to the topic designated by the instructor on the first day of class. Each proposal must be typed and submitted in a folder with pockets.

100 Group Presentation of Research Proposal

Each group will make a formal presentation of their research proposal to the class on the date/time designated by the instructor. Each presentation must include Powerpoints, a detailed discussion of each section of the proposal with the associated rationale and each group member must adequately participate.
Preparation and Participation

Each student is required to come to each class fully prepared and to make a significant contribution to each class.

Comprehensive/Cumulative Final Examination

BIOL 4600-0 (CRN 20122)  
Friday (11/20/2015)  
1:00 to 2:50 PM  
CONH 231

The final examination will consist of Part I (multiple choice questions) and Part II (short-answer discussion questions). The combination of multiple choice and short-answer discussion questions will be designed to assess each student’s knowledge of the concepts and principles related to biological research methods.

Total Course Points = 900

Final course grades will be assigned as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100%</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-89%</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-79%</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-69%</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-59%</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes:

1. All assignments will be due at the date/time specified on the class syllabus and/or by the instructor. Assignments will not be accepted after this date/time for any reason.

2. All Student-Led Discussions must be completed during the date/time scheduled. Any student who does not come to class prepared to lead their scheduled discussion or who is absent from class on the day/date their discussion is scheduled will receive a grade of zero.

3. In the event that a student’s final class percentage is close to but falls short of the next highest grade category, the instructor will consider such factors as classroom attendance, preparation, participation, level of contribution that each student has made to each class, etc. in determining the final class grade. A student’s final letter grade will only be elevated if his or her final class percentage is within one point of the next highest grade category.

4. Make-up examinations will not be given. Any student who misses the midterm examination should notify the instructor prior to the next regularly scheduled class which he or she attends. If the student has an appropriate reason for missing the examination, then he or she will be allowed to substitute the average percentage score of the Written Critique of One Biological Research Article and the Student-Led Class Discussion of Research Article scores for the midterm examination score. Any student who misses the final examination will receive a grade of zero.
School of Science and Mathematics Policies

1. Cell phones and all other electronic devices must be turned off during each class and/or laboratory session.

2. Students enrolled in classes in the School of Science and Mathematics will be expected to demonstrate an understanding of subject matter requiring higher order processing skills. Examination questions may take the form of essay (synthesis, analysis or application), as well as completion, multiple choice, true/false and matching. In addition, computation skills and drawing or diagramming may be required.

Reasonable accommodations will be made for students who have proper documentation and inform the instructor at the beginning of class.
## Tentative Class Schedule*

**BIOL 4600-0/CRN 20122**

Dr. Marvin E. Holtz  
Room: Conger Hall (CONH) 231  
Lecture Hour: 1:00 to 2:50 PM Friday  
Fall 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8/14</td>
<td>Course Description and Policies; Assignments for Class on 8/21/2015.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/18</td>
<td>Midterm Examination (1:00 to 2:50 PM): Students will write a detailed and specific critique of a research article supplied by the instructor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/25, 10/2 &amp; 10/9</td>
<td>Student-Led Discussions of Research Articles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/16, 10/23 &amp; 10/30</td>
<td>Practical Application of the Scientific Method: Students will work in assigned groups and design a research proposal/study in accordance with the scientific method and the parameters discussed within the classroom.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/6 &amp; 11/13</td>
<td>Group Presentations/Research Proposals</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 11/20 (Friday) | COMPREHENSIVE/CUMULATIVE FINAL EXAMINATION  
1:00 to 2:50 PM in CONH 231 |

* The specific dates and amount of time for each topic may vary. The topics will be covered in the order listed and each student is expected to fully prepare for each class and make a significant contribution. The instructor reserves the right to make modifications in the amount of time taken to cover the specific course content; the pace at which the material is covered; the sequencing of the content which may include the addition or deletion of material; the number of examinations given; the content covered on each examination and the format of each examination. Each student is responsible for the material covered in each class and is responsible for making arrangements to obtain any missed material.