Instructor: Dr. Heather M. Cathcart  
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Daytime phone: 229-391-5119  
Office: Conger Hall 203  
Office hours: Office hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 3:15-4:15pm, Tuesdays and Thursdays 2-3pm and Fridays by appointment only.

Course Description: This is a one credit hour Special Topics in Biology. This customized course is designed to offer students an opportunity to pursue independent study learning various research techniques and to devise and begin a research project involving the model organism C. elegans. The student is expected to work a minimum of 10 hours per week both independently and in conjunction with the course instructor. It is the instructor's responsibility to teach students research techniques and guide students throughout the semester. Students are expected to develop and investigate a hypothesis agreed upon between the student and the course instructor. The student should use peer-reviewed published articles from recognized journals, books and websites to compile a literature review to be turned in before midterm and also to design a research project which will be presented using the format of a scientific poster to be turned in the last week of classes.

Students will interpret scientific principles, theories, and laws as they apply to the dynamic nature of scientific disciplines.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Demonstrate the ability to design a basic original research project
2. Demonstrate the ability to learn basic research techniques
3. Demonstrate the ability to keep a laboratory notebook
4. Demonstrate the ability to understand scientific journal articles and write a literature review
5. Demonstrate the ability to present the original research project in the form of a poster

Prerequisite: BIOL 1108/1108L and 20 additional hours of biological science with a minimum grade of C. Reserved for upperclassman and permission of the Dean of the School of Science and Mathematics.

Required Materials:

1. 3 ring binder notebook
2. Lab coat
3. Safety goggles

Class website: https://abac.view.usg.edu/ (D2L)

Attendance: Courses at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College (ABAC) are provided for the intellectual growth and development of the students. The interaction with instructors and other students is an important element of the learning process, and a high correlation exists between attendance and course grades, this is especially true in laboratory classes. In order to attain maximum success, students should plan to attend all lab classes and be on time.
Withdrawal: A student may withdraw from the course up to the midpoint of the semester and receive a grade of W. After midterm, students may withdraw only with permission of the Academic Dean and may receive a grade of WF. Students that stop attending class without officially withdrawing will still receive a grade for the course.

Academic Conduct Code: Academic integrity is the responsibility of all ABAC faculty and students. Academic dishonesty and irregularities include, but are not limited to, giving or receiving of unauthorized assistance in the preparation of any academic assignment; taking or attempting to take, stealing, or otherwise obtaining in an unauthorized manner any material pertaining to the education process; selling, giving, lending, or otherwise furnishing to any person any questions and/or answers to any examination known to be scheduled at any subsequent date; fabricating, forging, or falsifying lab or clinical results; plagiarism in any form related to themes, essays, term papers, tests, and other assignments. Academic dishonesty and irregularities will result in a grade of ZERO for the course and may be subject to disciplinary procedures as outlined in the student handbook. Please check with the course instructor if you have any questions about the conduct code (http://www.abac.edu/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/201415-Student-Handbook1.pdf).

Statement of Classroom Civility: “An Abraham Baldwin College student is expected to show proper respect for order, morality, and the rights of others. Conduct which is normally reprehensible or which is of a disorderly nature and in violation of written policy shall subject the student to disciplinary action. “Cell phones, pagers, and all other electronic communication devices should be turned off and out of sight during lab. Please notify the instructor in advance (at the start of class) if an emergency exists where you need your phone. Students that display disruptive behavior, fail to dress appropriately and/or follow lab safety procedures will be subject to a ZERO for exams, letter grade deduction or failure of the course.

Accommodation of Disabilities If there is a student in this class who has documented specific needs because of learning disabilities or any other disability; please contact the course instructor immediately to discuss accommodations.

Student Evaluations: Grades will be determined as a percentage of the maximum number of points for the entire course and based on the grading scale as outlined below.

Point distribution:
- Literature Review Rough Draft: 6/15/15 25 points
- Literature Review Final Draft: 6/25/15 25 points
- Poster Rough Draft: 7/10/15 25 points
- Poster Final Draft Due: 7/23/15 25 points
- Total Points 100 points

Grading Scale:
A 100-90% (≥90pts)        B 89-80% (≥80pts)        C 79-70% (≥70pts)        D 69-60% (≥60pts)        F 59-0% (≤59pts)