Special Problems
Biology 475
Spring 2016

Class meeting time and place: TBD
Instructor: Dr. Jennifer Gumm
Department: Biology
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Office: Miller Science Rm. 123
Office hours: TBD and by appointment
Text: Primary Literature readings to be specified
Course online resources: see D2L

Course Description:
3 semester hours. For undergraduate credit only. Independent investigations by students guided through individual conferences with the professor willing to work with them. May be repeated for additional credit. Prerequisites: 18 hours of Biology with minimum B average and approval of the department chair.

Course Objectives:
1) Comprehend and apply the process of science
2) Use quantitative reasoning to critically evaluate data
3) Communicate to multiple audiences and collaborate effectively in a lab setting

Grading Policy: Grades will be based on the percent completion of the assigned project and research summary according to the following scheme:
A = 90 and above
B – 80 and above
C = 70 and above
D = 70 and above

Research Summary: The research summary will be due the last day of classes at 5pm. The document should summarize literature relevant to the assigned project, fully describe the methods of the experiment performed and present the data collected in graphical format. The summary should also include a 1-page reflection of skills used/learned throughout the semester and the relation of these skills to future goals.

Evaluations and surveys: It is now departmental policy to require students to fill out online class evaluations at the semester's end (instructions will be provided at a later date).

Acceptable Student Behavior: Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor's ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the Student Conduct Code, policy D-34.1, http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/student_conduct_code.asp). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.
**Academic Integrity (A-9.1):** Abiding by university policy on academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members must promote the components of academic integrity in their instruction, and course syllabi are required to provide information about penalties for cheating and plagiarism as well as the appeal process.

**Definition of Academic Dishonesty**
Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes, but is not limited to:
- using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class;
- falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assignment; and/or,
- helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism.

Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:
- submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another;
- submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from the Internet or another source; and,
- incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper or presentation without giving the author due credit.

**Procedure for Addressing Student Academic Dishonesty**
A faculty member who has evidence and/or suspects that academic dishonesty has occurred shall gather all pertinent information, approach the student(s) involved, and initiate the following procedure:
- The faculty member shall review all evidence of cheating or plagiarism and discuss it directly with the student(s) involved. The faculty member shall inform the student(s) of the procedure for addressing academic dishonesty, as well as the appeals process.
- After hearing the student(s)’ explanation or defense, the faculty member will determine whether or not academic dishonesty has occurred and will inform the student(s) what action will be taken. Penalties may include reprimand, no credit for the assignment or exam, re-submission of the work, make-up exam, or failure of the course. The faculty member may consult with the academic unit chair/director and dean in making these decisions.
- After a determination of academic dishonesty, the faculty member shall notify the office of the dean of the student's major by submitting a Report of Academic Dishonesty, along with supporting documentation as noted on the form. This report shall be made part of the student’s record and shall remain on file with the dean's office for at least four years.
- Upon second or subsequent offenses, the dean of the student’s major will determine a course of action, which may include dismissal from the university. The dean may refer the case to the college council for review and recommendations before making this determination.

A student’s record of academic dishonesty will not be available to faculty members. The purpose of the record is for the dean to track a pattern of academic dishonesty during a student’s academic career at Stephen F. Austin State University.

Students who are found to have demonstrated academic dishonesty and have withdrawn prior to the award of a grade will continue to have the determination of the infraction within their student records.

**Student Appeals**
A student who wishes to appeal decisions related to academic integrity should follow procedures outlined in Academic Appeals of Students (A-2).

Source: [http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp)
**Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (A-54):** At the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future semesters, the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

Source: [http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/semester_grds.asp](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/semester_grds.asp)

**Students with Disabilities:** To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to [http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/](http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/).