BIOL 509 – Advanced Topics in Biological Sciences

BIOL 509 is an optional course that students in Biological Sciences may choose to take as part of their requirements towards fulfilling a major in Biological Sciences.

BIOL 509 will be conducted within the jurisdiction of the Department of Biological Sciences. Students are permitted a maximum of 9 units of independent project courses towards their major field.

This one-term course gives students an opportunity to carry out advanced work in areas not covered in regular courses or to pursue specific topics at greater depth, via reading projects, seminars, lectures, term papers and other aspects of training in theory or research methodology.

If the Supervisor is not a member of Biological Sciences, a Co-Supervisor from the Department of Biological Sciences is required. In this case, both will have to approve the webform submission before you can be enrolled into the course.

Both the Supervisor and Co-Supervisor must be kept apprised of the project during the term and must be involved in the evaluation of the project and determination of the final grade.

Projects undertaken outside the Department of Biological Sciences program must have a component that aligns with the Department of Biological Sciences program.

Getting a Supervisor
It is the responsibility of the student to decide on a general topic of interest for this course and to approach a suitable faculty member regarding supervision. This must be done in advance of initiating enrolment into the course.

Have a project idea but unsure who to approach as a possible Supervisor?
Students who have a project in mind but are unsure which faculty members would be potential supervisors should view the research themes carried out by faculty members in Biological Sciences (https://science.ucalgary.ca/biological-sciences/research/research-areas).

GUIDELINES PERTAINING TO THE CONDUCT IN BIOL 509

Time commitment
The course involves three instructional hours per week and students are expected to put in additional work outside of those contact hours; students should anticipate about 9 hours of work per week in this course.

Evaluation criteria
Within two weeks of enrolling in the course, you need to submit to your Supervisor(s) a brief project proposal of 2-4 pages outlining the objectives of the project and details of how you intend to achieve those objectives. In the case of a co-supervised project, you will need approval from both your Supervisor and Co-supervisor. Students are also required to submit a final written report to the Supervisor(s). In the case of co-supervised projects, your report will be assessed by both the Supervisor and the Co-supervisor and a grade will be awarded as a result of consultation between these two individuals. Other evaluation criteria may also be required. Students must agree with the Supervisor(s) on course content and weighting of components. The final grade will be assigned by the Supervisor(s).
GUIDELINES PERTAINING TO REGISTRATION IN BIOL 509

GPA requirement
To be eligible to register in BIOL 509, students must have completed 54 units, and have a GPA of 2.75 or higher (over the most recent 30 units).

Meeting with potential Supervisor (and Co-Supervisor if applicable):
1. Provide a current unofficial copy of your transcript.
2. Agreed-upon value and due date for all course components must be determined with your Supervisor(s).
3. Be sure to ask about and/or discuss with potential Supervisor(s):
   Type/topic of project, expectations of the student and of the Supervisor(s), time requirements (e.g., 9 hours per week), course components that will be required and graded, deadlines for submission of course components

Once the prospective Supervisor has indicated their willingness to supervise you on your project
Complete the webform (https://science.ucalgary.ca/usc-independent-research-course-application) - NO LATER than 10 working days before the add/swap deadline in the term (https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-schedule.html).
- If approval is denied at this point, you will be notified by e-mail.
- If approval is granted, staff in the USC will enrol you into the course and you will be notified by email.

BIOL 509 – Advanced Topics in Biological Sciences will count towards a major in Biological Sciences.

The following component values will be discussed and agreed-upon by the student and supervisor(s) during their initial meeting:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluation criteria/course component</th>
<th>Due date (if applicable)</th>
<th>Suggested value range (%)</th>
<th>Agreed value in % (Total = 100%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research component (Min. 3, Max. 6 subcomponents)</td>
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Letter Grade Conversion
A+ ≥ 92, A ≥ 85, A- ≥ 80, B+ ≥ 77, B ≥ 73, B- ≥ 70, C+ ≥ 67, C ≥ 64, C- ≥ 60, D+ ≥ 55, D ≥ 50, F < 50