BIOL 530 – Honours Research Project in Biological Sciences

BIOL 530 is a required two-term course that students in Biological Sciences must take to requirements to fulfil an Honours degree in Biological Sciences.

BIOL 530 will be conducted within the jurisdiction of the Program of Biological Sciences and all projects must be done under the supervision or co-supervision of a regular or adjunct faculty member within Biological Sciences. BIOL 530 is required of, and open only to, Honours students in Biological Sciences.

To be eligible to register in a 530 course, students must have completed 72 units, and have GPA of 2.75 or higher (over the most recent 30 units).

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 of Biological Sciences must have a component that aligns with the 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 530

Time commitment
Estimated time commitment is a minimum of 10-12 hours per week (on the project as a whole, which can include lab work, reading, writing, etc.), plus the time required to meet with the Supervisor(s) periodically to discuss progress.

Evaluation criteria
Evaluation criteria include the preparation of a research proposal, a progress report, research components, a final report, and an oral presentation that is usually given the last or second-last week of classes. Components have pre-assigned weighting. The final grade will be assigned by the Supervisor(s).

Other specific notes:
1. The student must submit to the supervisor(s) a project proposal outlining the objectives of the proposed research and details of how the student intends to achieve those objectives. These projects are expected to have a substantial laboratory or field research component. In the case of a co-supervised project, both supervisors and the student will meet to approve the proposed project.

2. A final written report, in the form of a paper in a research journal, must be submitted to the supervisor(s) by the last day of classes for that term. In the case of co-supervised projects, this report will be assessed by both supervisors and a grade awarded as a result of consultation between these two individuals. Note that the final written report may be graded by additional faculty members other than the supervisor(s). The grade will be submitted to the Department of Biological Sciences by the Supervisor.

3. The student must also give an oral presentation on the work (suggested length of presentation is 15 minutes) in the Biological Sciences Undergraduate Research Symposium, usually held in the last or second last week of the Winter term. At the end of this presentation the student will be expected to answer questions on the project.
GUIDELINES PERTAINING TO REGISTRATION IN BIOL 530

GPA requirement
To be eligible to register in BIOL 530, students must have completed 72 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. Students must be aware that there is an Independent Project Agreement & Checklist form to be completed and signed by the student and Supervisor(s). The last page of the form (Checklist) must be completed and signed by the student and submitted with the final report for the project. The form is available at: https://science.ucalgary.ca/biological-sciences/current-students/undergraduate/procedures-policies-and-forms
4. Be sure to ask about and/or discuss with potential Supervisor(s):
   Type/topic of research, expectations of the student and of the Supervisor(s), time requirements (e.g., 10-12 hours per week in total on the independent project), 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 530 – Honours Research Project in Biological Sciences and it will count towards a major in Biological Sciences.

The following component values will be used for grading:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluation criteria/course component</th>
<th>Due date (if applicable)</th>
<th>Value in % (Total = 100%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Supervisor’s assessment of term work</td>
<td>Due at end of each term</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Proposal/Progress Report</td>
<td>Due as agreed with supervisor(s)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Report</td>
<td>Due last day of classes</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral Presentation</td>
<td>Last or second-last week of classes</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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