

BIOD95H (F&S)/98Y/99Y: Supervised study & Directed Research Courses in Biology

Dr. Aarthi Ashok & Dr. Ivana Stehlik
Department of Biological Sciences, UTSC
Course Syllabus
2012-2013

Course description:

D95: This course is designed to permit intensive examination of the primary literature of a select topic. Frequent consultation with the supervisor is necessary and extensive library research is required. The project will culminate in a written report/thesis. 6 sessions of group instruction (tutorials) will form part of the coursework.

D98: A course designed to permit laboratory or field research or intensive examination of a selected topic in biology. Supervision of the work is arranged by mutual agreement between student and instructor. 12 sessions of group instruction (tutorials) will form part of the coursework.

D99: Identical to BIOD98Y but intended as a second research experience. In order to be eligible for BIOD99Y, with the same instructor, the student and the instructor will have to provide a plan of study that goes beyond the work of BIOD98Y. 12 sessions of group instruction (tutorials) will form part of the coursework.

Prerequisites – D95: 12.5 credits completed of which at least 4 are at the B/C level.

Prerequisites – D98/99: 13.5 credits completed of which at least 4 are at the B/C level.

Time and Location:

Tutorials: Tuesdays, 2-3pm in IC 320 In FALL 2012

Tuesdays, 3-4pm in IC 320 in WINTER 2013

--any exceptions will be noted on the Course Schedule below.

Note: Tutorials are mandatory and attendance and participation in them is valued at 10% of your final grade.

D95 students are required to attend 6 tutorials in the term that they are enrolled in (Fall or Winter).

D98/99 students are required to attend 12 tutorials that span the Fall and Winter terms.

Blackboard course resources:

Like many other courses, BGYD98Y3, BGYD99Y3 & BGYD95H3 use a **combined Blackboard course site**. To access this site, go to the U of T Portal login page at <https://portal.utoronto.ca> and log in using your UTORid and password. Once you have logged in, look for the My Courses module, where you'll find the link to the combined BGYD98Y3, BGYD99Y3 & BGYD95H3 course website: Research in Biology (along with links to your other courses that have their website on the U of T Portal). General course information & schedule of classes, course materials and important announcements will be posted on the Blackboard (Portal) site for this course. There will also be a discussion board for students to share ideas about their research projects or ask each for experimental reagents or advice. The final presentation schedule for D98/99 students will be posted on this site in the winter term as will any changes to the tutorial schedule. Please make sure to check this site frequently for updates.

Evaluation:

Mentor/advisor: evaluates your lab/literature research skills, your level of dedication to your project, your intellectual contribution to project development, your lab meeting presentations/contributions, your final thesis paper and your final oral presentation (oral presentation & lab meetings are for D98/99 only) = **70%** of your final grade.

Course coordinator: evaluates your participation and attendance at tutorial sessions = **10%** of your final grade; evaluates your final thesis research paper and oral presentation (oral presentation for D98/99 only) = **20%** of your final grade.

Important dates to note:

D98 & D99 Research Paper/thesis due date: **Monday, April 9th, 2012**

D95 Research Paper/thesis due dates: **Thursday, December 1st 2011 (F); Monday, April 9th 2012 (S)**

D98 & D99 Departmental presentations: -Date, Schedule & Location TBA

Course staff:

Instructors:

Dr. Aarthi Ashok

Office hours : Mondays, 3-4pm in SW 521D or by appointment:

aashok@utsc.utoronto.ca

Office location: SW 521D

Dr. Ivana Stehlik

Office hours: Tue, Thu: 10:00-11:30 pm, 1:00-3:00 pm (Fall Term)

Office location: SW421E

TA: He-Song Sun

Office hours by appointment: hsun@utsc.utoronto.ca. TA will be present at all sessions outlined above. March 26th: TA Office hours in S403.

COURSE SCHEDULE 2012-2013:

DATE (Fall 2012)	DISCUSSION TOPIC
TUES, SEP 18 IC 320; 2-3pm	Course Introduction / Research Ethics
TUES, SEP 25 BV471; 2-3pm	How to gain information as a scientist
TUES, OCT 2 IC 320; 2-3pm	Why and how to skim read an article
TUES, OCT 9 IC 320; 2-3pm	How to deep read an article
TUES, OCT 23 IC 320; 2-3pm	What I want to accomplish in my project?
TUES, OCT 30 IC 320; 2-3pm	What I want to accomplish in my project?
TUES, NOV 6 IC 320; 2-3pm	What I want to accomplish in my project?
	END OF FALL TERM
DATE (WINTER 2013)	DISCUSSION TOPIC
TUES, JAN 15 IC 320; 3-4pm	The writing process
TUES, JAN 22 IC 320; 3-4pm	Thesis writing
TUES, FEB 5 IC 320; 3-4pm	Critiquing Abstracts: peer review
TUES, FEB 12 IC 320; 3-4pm	Reviewing improved Abstracts/ Critiquing Introductions
TUES, FEB 26 IC 320; 3-4pm	Critiquing Paper outlines
TUES, MARCH 5 IC 320; 3-4pm	Presentation skills
TUES, MARCH 26 SW 403; 10-noon	Special office hours with TA -Q &A about thesis writing/ practice presentations
	END OF WINTER TERM