

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
2016-2017

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. Six sessions of group instruction (tutorials) will form part of the coursework. In the fall, there are more tutorials than D95 students need to attend. Of these, some are mandatory tutorials (attendance will be taken): Sep 20, 27, Oct 4, 18 and 25. In addition, D95 students have to choose one more tutorial (see course schedule p. 4). During the winter term, six tutorials need to be attended.

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. Twelve sessions of group instruction (tutorials) will form part of the coursework. During the fall term, six tutorials need to be attended, as well as six tutorials in the winter term. In the fall, there more tutorials than D98 students need to attend. Of these, some are mandatory tutorials (attendance will be taken): Sep 20, 27, Oct 4, and 18. In addition, D98 students have to choose two more tutorials (see course schedule p. 4). During the winter term, six tutorials need to be attended.

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. For students who have taken their previous D98 in the fall, only two of the fall tutorials are mandatory: Oct 4 and 18. Students who have taken their D98 in the summer term will have to take 6 fall tutorials. In the fall, there more tutorials than D98 students need to attend. Of these, some are mandatory tutorials (attendance will be taken): Sep 20, 27, Oct 4, and 18. In addition, D98 students have to choose two more tutorials (see course schedule p. 4). During the winter term, 6 tutorials need to be attended.

Prereqs – D95: 12.5 credits completed with at least 4 are at the B/C level.

Prereqs – D98/99: 13.5 credits completed with at least 4 are at the B/C level.

Time and Location:

Tutorials: Tuesdays, 2 - 3 pm in MW110 in the fall and winter

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

Note: The outlined minimum number of tutorials (above) is mandatory and attendance and participation in them is valued at 10% of your final grade.

Blackboard course resources:

Like many other courses, BIOD98Y3, BIOD99Y3 & BIOD95H3 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 BIOD98Y3, BIOD99Y3 & BIOD95H3 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. A breakdown of your mentor's evaluation should have been provided to you as part of the departmental form for BIOD5/98/99. If you did not obtain a copy, you can request one from Gloria Luza in SW 420B.

Course instructors: 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.

Submission of papers to Turnitin:

Students will be asked to submit their papers to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their papers to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site: (<http://www.utoronto.ca/ota/turnitin/ConditionsofUse.html>)

Turnitin.com is most effective when used by all students; however, if and when students object to its use on principle, the course offers a reasonable offline alternative. The student will then be asked to meet with the course instructor to outline and discuss the report before its final submission to demonstrate the process of creating the report according to the academic integrity policy.

Important dates to note:

D98 & D99 Research Paper/thesis due date: **Mar 31, 2017 by 4pm. Note that a 20% penalty per day will apply if paper is late.**

D95 Research Paper/thesis due dates: **Dec 2, 2016 by 4pm (Fall); Mar 31 2017 by 4pm (Winter). Note that a 20% penalty per day will apply if paper is late.**

D98 & D99 Departmental presentations: –Date, Schedule & Location TBA; **likely Monday, April 3rd 2017**. Please check blackboard for future announcements.

Course staff:**Instructors:****Fall:** Dr. Ivana StehlikOffice hours: by appointment: ivana.stehlik@utoronto.ca

Office location: SW 563C

Winter: Dr. Aarthi AshokOffice hours: by appointment: aashok@utsc.utoronto.ca

Office location: SW 521D

TA Fall & Winter: Terrence ChangOffice hours by appointment: terrence.chang@mail.utoronto.ca, TA will be present at all sessions outlined above.

COURSE SCHEDULE 2016-2017:

DATE (Fall 2016) MW110, 2-3 PM	DISCUSSION TOPIC
Tue, SEP 20	Course Introduction / Research Ethics
Tue, SEP 27	How to access information as a scientist
Tue, OCT 4	How to do a 5 min presentation
Tue, OCT 11	No class
Tue, OCT 18	D99 presentations (this class is required for all students)
Tue, OCT 25	D95 presentations
Tue, NOV 1	D98 presentations
Tue, NOV 8	D98 presentations
Tue, NOV 15	D98 presentations
Tue, NOV 22	(if necessary) D98 presentations
Tue, NOV 29	(if necessary) D98 presentations
	END OF FALL TERM
DATE (WINTER 2017) MW110, 2-3 PM	DISCUSSION TOPIC
Tue, JAN 10	The writing process
Tue, JAN 17	Thesis writing
Tue, JAN 24	Critiquing Abstracts: peer review
Tue, FEB 7	Reviewing improved Abstracts/Critiquing Introductions
Tue, FEB 14	Critiquing Paper outlines
Tue, March 14	Presentation skills
Tue, March 28 (Note: location is TBA)	Special office hours with TA -Q &A about thesis writing/ practice presentations
	END OF WINTER TERM