

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

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Department of Biological Sciences, UTSC  
Course Syllabus  
2013-2014

## 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.

**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, 2-3pm in BV260 In FALL 2013

Tuesdays, 3-4pm BV260 in WINTER 2014

--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.

### **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 it is 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: **Apr 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

D95 Research Paper/thesis due dates: **Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> 2013 (F); Apr 7<sup>th</sup> 2014 (W)**

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

**Course staff:****Instructors:**

Dr. Aarthi Ashok

Office hours : Mondays, 3-4pm or by appointment: [aashok@utsc.utoronto.ca](mailto:aashok@utsc.utoronto.ca)

Office location: SW 521D

Dr. Ivana Stehlik

Office hours: Tue, Thu: 10:00-11:30 pm (Fall) or by appointment:

[ivana.stehlik@utoronto.ca](mailto:ivana.stehlik@utoronto.ca)

Office location: SW 563C

**TA:** Arujun BrahmendraOffice hours by appointment: [a.brahmendra@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:a.brahmendra@mail.utoronto.ca). TA will be present at all sessions outlined above. TA Office hours in S403.**COURSE SCHEDULE 2013-2014:**

<b>DATE (Fall 2013)</b> <b>BV260, 2-3 PM</b>	<b>DISCUSSION TOPIC</b>
TUES, SEP 17	<b>Course Introduction / Research Ethics</b>
TUES, SEP 24	<b>How to access information as a scientist</b>
TUES, OCT 1	<b>Why and how to skim read an article</b>
TUES, OCT 8	<b>How to deep read an article</b>
TUES, OCT 22	<b>What I want to accomplish in my project?</b>
TUES, OCT 29	<b>What I want to accomplish in my project?</b>
TUES, NOV 5	<b>What I want to accomplish in my project?</b>
	<b>END OF FALL TERM</b>
<b>DATE (WINTER 2014)</b> <b>BV260, 3-4 PM</b>	<b>DISCUSSION TOPIC</b>
TUES, JAN 14	<b>The writing process</b>
TUES, JAN 21	<b>Thesis writing</b>
TUES, FEB 4	<b>Critiquing Abstracts: peer review</b>
TUES, FEB 11	<b>Reviewing improved Abstracts/Critiquing Introductions</b>
TUES, FEB 25	<b>Critiquing Paper outlines</b>
TUES, MARCH 4	<b>Presentation skills</b>
TUES, MARCH 26	<b>Special office hours with TA -Q &amp;A about thesis writing/ practice presentations</b>
	<b>END OF WINTER TERM</b>