



**OBJECTIVES:**

By the end of the term students should be able to:

- 1) Efficiently search for and critically read the primary literature.
- 2) Identify underlying assumptions in research papers.
- 3) Understand methodologies of research papers.
- 4) Evaluate data and assess the validity of inferences based on these data.
- 5) Synthesize information from a variety of sources to support an argument
- 6) Explain and discuss the relative merits of conflicting hypotheses in their field
- 7) Propose new investigations that could extend knowledge in their field.
- 8) Gain a better understanding of personal strengths and weaknesses when doing teamwork.

Your research supervisor may have other learning goals that centre around the theory and methodologies specific to their discipline.

**COURSE STRUCTURE**

Each team will meet weekly with the group TA, and periodically (typically 1x per month) with the faculty supervisor on a schedule worked out at the beginning of the term. All teams will participate in 2-3 class meetings with the course coordinator in a time set by the course-coordinator at the beginning of the term.

**GRADING**

10% of your grade in this course will be assigned by the course coordinator and will be based on the group meetings and associated assignments. Your faculty supervisor, as specified in the Team Research course form, will assign the remaining 90% of your grade.

**MARKING SCHEME**

- 10% -- Based on presentations and participation in meetings (2-3) with course coordinator  
 90% -- Determined by your faculty supervisor as outlined on the 'BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES PERMISSION FORM: BIOC99 Team Research' form.

**TENTATIVE\* SCHEDULE:**

| <b>DATE</b>     | <b>TASK</b>   |
|-----------------|---|
| Week of 05 Sept | Assemble team. Meet with TA & research supervisor   |
| 11 Sept         | Meet from 15:00-17:00 in BV361 to determine class meeting days and discuss paper on collaborative work (see Blackboard) |
| 18 Sept         | <b>Informal talk:</b> Research proposal & research work plan (15-20 min)  |
| Week of 30 Oct  | Research update, discussion of key references, outline of writing plan  |
| 27 Nov          | Research paper due (to faculty supervisor)  |
| 04 Dec          | <b>Formal Research talk</b> (20 - 45 min)   |

\* = these times may be modified by the instructor

**Academic Policies:** The University of Toronto has strict policies on academic integrity and plagiarism. Academic dishonesty tarnishes U of T's reputation and discredits the accomplishments of students. The university is committed to providing students every possible opportunity to grow in mind and spirit; however, this pledge can only be redeemed in an environment of trust, honesty, and fairness. As a result, all members of the academic community at large regard academic dishonesty as a serious offense. This policy sanctions students engaging in academic dishonesty with penalties up to and including expulsion from the university for repeat offenders.

For more information please follow this link below for the University of Toronto's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters. <http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>

**Disclaimer:** The instructor reserves the right to modify this syllabus and schedule as necessary throughout the term to better achieve course objectives and/or enhance the quality of instruction. As such, outlines provided are tentative. Notification of changes will be made in class and the most up-to-date version will always be the one available on Blackboard. You are responsible for being aware of the contents of this syllabus.