

Course Proposal: Modify Course

This proposal will change the following elements of the course.

**Credit Hours**

1. Course prefix and number: **BIO590**
2. Effective Term/Year: **FALL 2014**
3. CIP CODE/10 digit program code: **No Change**
4. Short Course Title: **Thesis Writing**

Modified Short Course Title: **Thesis Writing**

5. What is the primary reason you are modifying this course?

Changing the minimum number of hours from 3 to 1 is more flexible especially during the semester the student graduates; Many times the student has already taken the required 3 hours of BIO590 but needs one more semester to complete thesis and therefore only needs to sign up for 1 hour of BIO590.

6. Enter course description exactly as it now appears in the general/graduate bulletin.

Thesis Writing. Three to nine semester hours. Student must be enrolled in this course the semester he/she graduates. Prerequisite: Biology 589 and approval of department chair.

Enter modified course description exactly as it will appear in the general/graduate bulletin?

Thesis Writing. One to nine semester hours. The student must enroll in three hours of Biology 590 the first time, after which, the hours enrolled are flexible as recommended by thesis adviser. The student must be enrolled in this course the semester he/she graduates. Prerequisite: Biology 589 and approval of department chair.

7. Current Prerequisites: **No Change**

Modified Course Prerequisites:

8. College: **College of Science and Mathematics**

9. Department Teaching Course: **Biology**

- 10a. Instruction Type: **Thesis No Change**

- 10b. Credit Hours:

Current - Maximum:	9	Minimum:	3	Maximum Hours counted toward degree:	3
Modified- Maximum:	9	Minimum:	1	Maximum Hours counted toward degree:	3

- 11a. Second Instruction Type: **Thesis No Change**

- 11b. Second Credit Hours:

Current - Maximum:	Minimum:	Maximum Hours counted toward degree:
Modified- Maximum:	Minimum:	Maximum Hours counted toward degree:

12. Maximum contact hours each week fall semester: **No Change**

Lecture:    Lab:    Other:

13. May this course be taken more than one time each semester: **Yes**

14. Grade Type: **Regular: A-F No Change**

15. Describe the place of the modified course within your current curriculum. Will it be elective or required? Part of a major or a minor? (Enter NA if no change is being made.)

This is a required course for Thesis students in the Biology Major. The students take this course after taking Biology 589 when they start writing their thesis. They remain enrolled until they graduate.

16. How does the modified course differ from similar courses being offered at Stephen F. Austin? (Enter NA if no change is being made.)

Changing the minimum number of hours that a student can enroll in is more consistent with other programs such as Biotechnology. All other departments in the College of Sciences and Mathematics have a minimum of 3 credit hours.

## 17. Syllabus: Course Learning Goals

List course objectives; describe what students who complete the course will know or be able to do.  
(Enter NA if no change is being made.)

NA

## 18. Syllabus: Course Outline

List the topics that the modified course will cover and indicate the approximate proposed amount of time to be devoted to each, either by percent of course time or number of weeks. Please indicate which topics will be required in all sections of the course and which may vary.  
(Enter NA if no change is being made.)

NA

## 19. Syllabus: Modified Textbook/Assigned Reading Materials for course.

NA

## 20. Any Other Information

Dept. Chair John T. Moore Date: 10/14/2013

College Curriculum Chair \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

College Dean \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Grad Dean/Univ Curr Chair \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Syllabus  
Thesis Writing  
BIO590.001**

**Name:** Beatrice Clack

**Email:** bclack@sfasu.edu

**Phone:** 936-468-1017

**Office:** S113

**Office Hours:** M/W 1:30 PM -5:00 PM;  
T 2:00 PM -5:00 PM

**Department:** Biology

**Class meeting time and place:** 9:00 -11:00 AM, S110

**Course Description:** This course may be repeated. Student must be enrolled in this course the semester he/she graduates. Prerequisite: Biology 589 and approval of department chair. \*Students completing a thesis must register each semester the University resources are utilized. See Thesis Preparation and Enrollment.

**Program Learning Outcomes:**

- MS\_PLO 1 Knowledge- The student will demonstrate a good knowledge base in biological concepts.
- MS\_PLO 2 Communication Skills- The student will demonstrate, in writing, a clear understanding of the scientific literature, a clear interpretation and presentation of their data and clearly draw conclusions from research.
- MS\_PLO 3 The student will demonstrate an understanding of scientific methods and design original scientific research.
- MS\_PLO 4 The student will demonstrate the ability to stay on task and to accomplish a goal.

**General Education Core Curriculum Objectives/Outcomes:**

This course is not included in the general education core curriculum.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

After completion of BIO590, Thesis Writing, the student should satisfactorily complete the following according to the style of a nationally peer-reviewed journal in the corresponding research topic.

1. The student should work in a timely fashion with their thesis advisor to generate a thesis draft, correct edits received from thesis advisor and thesis committee members to produce a final thesis which is in agreement with the SFASU graduate school thesis guide (<http://www.sfasu.edu/graduate/108.asp>) (PLO 4).
2. Prepare a written comprehensive literature review of previous peer-reviewed scientific studies that support the thesis project (PLO 1,2)
3. Clearly provide a written description of all Materials and Methods used to complete the thesis research (PLO 1, 2, 3).

4. Interpret and present results obtained for thesis research in a format consistent with publishing in the journal selected for the overall style of the thesis (PLO 1,2)
5. Formulate a discussion from the research results that compare and contrast results obtained to those published in peer-reviewed journals; conclusion should reference the cited works described in the literature review (PLO 1,2,3).
6. Present all literature cited in a References section compliant with the journal chosen to use as the written style for the thesis (PLO 2).

### **Text and Materials:**

There are no formal textbooks for this class. The student will need to utilize literature search engines such as Pubmed. The student may not use websites as sources. The student is encouraged to utilize books that show correct grammar use, bibliography formats, as well as a scientific dictionary.

Recommended books are:

Michael Alley (1996) The Craft of Scientific Writing, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition. Springer-Verlag, NY.

Mary Helen Briscoe (1995) Preparing Scientific Illustrations: A Guide to Better Posters, Presentations and Publications, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Springer-Verlag, NY.

Martha Davis (1997) Scientific Papers and Presentations. Academic Press, CA.

Joseph Gibaldi and Walter S. Achtert (1983) MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations. The Modern Language Association of America.

Harry Teitelbaum (1998) How to Write a Thesis, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition. Peterson's, NJ.

Kate L. Turabian (1996) A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition. The University of Chicago Press, Chicago.

### **Course Requirements:**

Prerequisite: Biology 589 and approval of department chair. This course can be repeated as advised by the thesis advisor until the student has defended his/her thesis.

**Course Calendar:** Given the fact that it may take a student 1-2 semesters to complete a thesis, the following is a tentative timeline for completion during a Fall or Spring semester.

1<sup>st</sup> quarter: Develop a detailed outline of thesis and begin preparing figures and tables for thesis

2<sup>nd</sup> quarter: Develop a draft of each section of thesis of the thesis to give to thesis advisor.

3<sup>rd</sup> quarter: Make any corrections in thesis draft as directed by thesis advisor and resubmit to thesis advisor for approval.

4<sup>th</sup> quarter: Complete thesis draft as outlined by the SFASU graduate thesis guide and, with approval of thesis advisor, submit edited thesis draft to committee members. If student is planning on defending his/her thesis this semester, then a complete draft must be given to committee members 2 weeks prior to scheduled thesis defense.

### **Grading Policy:**

Students will receive a WH for this class until completion of the thesis defense. After completion of thesis defense, the grade will reflect the level of completion of the above stated PLO and SLO's. A= Excellent, B= Good, C= Acceptable, F = unacceptable.

#### *Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (A-54)*

Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

#### **Attendance Policy:**

No formal grade will be given for attendance. The student will be expected to make a concert effort interact with his/her thesis advisor as much as necessary throughout the semester to successfully complete the thesis writing.

#### **Academic Integrity (A-9.1)**

Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

#### Definition of Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit.

Please read the complete policy at [http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic\\_integrity.asp](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp)

#### **Students with Disabilities**

To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the

accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to <http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/>.