**Department of Biology Course Outline**

Biology 440 (6 credits)

Honours Thesis in Biology

YEAR and TERM

**Calendar Description:**

BIOL 440 (6) Honours Thesis,taken by students in the Biology, Microbiology, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, or Zoology Honours programs. Students undertake a research project on a specific topic as agreed upon by the faculty member and the student. A written thesis is required, with a public presentation of the thesis in the form of a poster session or a seminar. *Prerequisite:* Permission of the Department of Biology, plus a research project and a research supervisor approved by Biology.

**Supervisor:**

Name:

Office:

Phone number:

Email Address:

**Course Description:**

Please provide a few statements describing the proposed work including objectives, methodology, and research goals, and expected results. Please include an approximate timetable or anticipated project milestones.

**Course Evaluation:**

Honours projects may be evaluated based on any or all of the following criteria: Proposal, literature search, research initiative, record keeping, thesis, poster or oral presentation, supervisor’s evaluation. Please note that a public presentation (poster or oral presentation) and a thesis are required for all honours students in Biology.

*Sample evaluation scheme:*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Element | % Allocation | Due Date |
| Proposal | % |  |
| Public Presentation (required) | % |  |
| Supervisor Evaluation | % |  |
| Thesis (required) | % |  |
| Total | 100% |  |

The proposal, the thesis and the oral presentation may be evaluated based on the assessment guidelines in Appendix 1.

**Special Circumstances:**

* *Late Submissions:* Except in exceptional circumstances and pre-arranged cases, late submission of the thesis will result in a penalty as determined by the supervisor in consultation with the Department Head.
* *Attendance:* Students are expected to regularly meet with their supervisor.

**(Please provide written guidelines regarding missed deadlines, missed meetings, and late submission. Include agreed upon penalties etc.)**

**Required Materials:**

(List any required materials including, text books, research facilities, certificates, permits, special training, etc.)

**Meetings:**

Honours students are expected to regularly meet with their supervisor (typically once a week) to discuss progress. Student missing two meetings without a valid reason may be asked to withdraw from the program.

**Thesis Format and Submission:**

The honours thesis must be similar in structure and format to a standard UBC MSc thesis (<https://gradstudies.ok.ubc.ca/academics/thesis-and-dissertation/preparation/>). At the very least, the thesis should contain Title page, Abstract, Table of Contents, List of Tables, List of Figures, Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, Discussion, Bibliography, and Appendices (if needed). The thesis is due to the supervisor on or before the last day of classes in Term 2. Evaluation criteria will be determined by the supervisor in consultation with the student.

**Academic Integrity:**

The academic enterprise is founded on honesty, civility, and integrity. As members of this enterprise, all students are expected to know, understand, and follow the codes of conduct regarding academic integrity. At the most basic level, this means submitting only original work done by you and acknowledging all sources of information or ideas and attributing them to others as required. This also means you should not cheat, copy, or mislead others about what is your work. Violations of academic integrity (i.e., misconduct) lead to the break down of the academic enterprise, and therefore serious consequences arise and harsh sanctions are imposed. For example, incidences of plagiarism or cheating may result in a mark of zero on the assignment or exam and more serious consequences may apply if the matter is referred to the President’s Advisory Committee on Student Discipline. Careful records are kept in order to monitor and prevent recurrences.

A more detailed description of academic integrity, including the policies and procedures, may be found at: <http://okanagan.students.ubc.ca/calendar/index.cfm?tree=3,54,111,0>

If you have any questions about how academic integrity applies to this course, please consult with your professor.

**Disability Assistance:**

If you require disability-related accommodations to meet the course objectives, please contact the Coordinator of Disability Resources located in the Student Development and Advising area in the University Centre building. For more information about Disability Resources or academic accommodations, please visit the website at: <https://students.ok.ubc.ca/academic-success/disability-resources/>

**Equity, Human Rights, Discrimination and Harassment:**

UBC Okanagan is a place where every student, staff and faculty member should be able to study and work in an environment that is free from human rights-based discrimination and harassment. Under UBC’s Policy 3 on Discrimination and Harassment, UBC prohibits discrimination and harassment on the basis of the following grounds: age, ancestry, colour, family status, marital status, physical or mental disability, place of origin, political belief, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation or unrelated criminal conviction. If you require assistance related to an issue of equity, discrimination or harassment, please contact:

UBC Equity Office & Inclusion Office, UNC 216, 3272 University Way, Kelowna, BC V1V 1V7

Tel 250 807 9291, Website <https://equity.ok.ubc.ca/>, Email [equity.ubco@ubc.ca](mailto:equity.ubco@ubc.ca)