CHE 684: Honors Research

Professor: Dr. Jessica Sarver
Email: sarverjl@westminster.edu
Meeting Time: Mondays @ 2 PM
Office hours: Consult posted schedule on office door, by drop-in, and by appointment.

Office: Hoyt 364

Course description: Students enrolled in 684 are expected to conduct the honors research project that was previously approved through the CHE 662 proposal process. All experimentation, data collection, and analysis must occur with close mentorship from the faculty member. The student and advisor will work together to direct the course of experimentation. The student will also write and publicly defend the honors thesis detailing the results of the honors project.

Requirements:

- For every 1 semester hour of credit received, the student is expected to put in 2-3 hours per week. The last number in the course code indicates the number of credit hours.
- The student and faculty member will hold a weekly meeting to discuss progress towards the research aims. This meeting may begin with a written weekly status report from the student.
- Documentation of laboratory work is required to show proof of experimental accomplishments.

Student outcomes: (At the end of this course, the student should be able to...)

- Perform approved experiments, including adhering to all appropriate safety and waste disposal protocols
- Collect relevant data from experimentation.
- Work independently in the laboratory
- Analyze data for relevance, accuracy, and precision
- Critically evaluate data and propose the next set of appropriate experiments.
- Write and revise a formal thesis detailing the results of the research.
- Prepare and publicly deliver an oral presentation in defense of the honors thesis.

Required materials: Journal articles, texts from previous courses, lab notebook, goggles

Course grading scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If the student meets this criteria...</th>
<th>He/she will earn an...</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exceptional progress towards project aims, comes prepared for weekly meetings, meets required hours, excellent written thesis</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Satisfactory progress towards project aims, comes for weekly meetings, meets required hours, satisfactory written thesis</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aims are not met, weekly meetings poorly attended, lack of time commitment, acceptable written thesis</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insufficient progress made toward research aims and/or lack of communication from student to professor</td>
<td>F</td>
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*The +/- can be added to the grade if the student produces a variation of the stated criteria

Academic Integrity: The College’s Academic Integrity Policy (AIP) will be strongly enforced. Violations of the AIP include cheating, misconduct, plagiarism, and providing false information. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. The first citation for academic dishonesty will result in a zero grade for the specific assignment. The second citation will result in a failing grade for the course. All citations for academic dishonesty will be reported to the Dean of the College, in accordance with college policy. Details of the AIP can be found in the Westminster College Undergraduate Catalog.