CHE 664: Honors Research

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Office hours: Consult posted schedule on office door, by drop-in, and by appointment.

Course description: Students enrolled in 664 are expected to produce an undergraduate honors research proposal with close mentorship from the faculty member. The student and advisor will work together to develop a set of aims for the research project at the beginning of the semester, and these aims will be presented to the honors thesis committee early in the semester (in accordance with the schedule of the Honors program). The student is expected to become adept at both finding and reading scientific literature appropriate for the project, and work in the laboratory to perform research experiments.

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 regular meetings to discuss data and experimental progress.
- Documentation of laboratory work in a lab notebook is required to show proof of experimental accomplishments.
- A final paper written in the style of the appropriate research journal will be submitted at the conclusion of the semester to explain the experimental findings.

Student outcomes: (At the end of this course, the student should be able to...)
- Search for relevant scientific literature and apply it to the specific project
- Communicate their results through writing a scientific report
- Work independently in the laboratory
- Exemplify mastery of common techniques required to meet the research objectives
- Explain their research in context of the current literature and identify the gap that their research fills in the current knowledge.
- Critically evaluate data and propose the next set of appropriate experiments.

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

Course grading scale:

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<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 regular meetings, meets required hours, excellent written report</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Satisfactory progress towards project aims, comes for regular meetings, meets required hours, satisfactory written report</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aims are not met, meetings poorly attended, lack of time commitment, acceptable written report</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fails to write report</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.