BIO 62 Syllabus
Independent Study
Fall 2018

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Course Description: An experience planned cooperatively between a student and a faculty member within the biology department. The faculty member serves as the supervisor. The course does not fulfill any requirements for the biology major; however, successful completion of a 4 semester hour research independent study can fulfill the research requirement for the molecular biology major (but only after receiving approval for such a purpose prior to starting the Independent Study).

Prerequisite: department approval after submission of an independent study proposal (1-2 page/400 word summary) prior to starting the independent study. The proposal should include what the student plans to do and how they plan to accomplish their goal(s). A rough estimate of a budget should be included as a separate document. The proposal will be submitted to the department and requires approval by majority vote.

Course Objectives: The outcomes of the biology independent study are achieved in students who:

- demonstrate an ability to apply biological concepts and principles learned from Westminster courses in an independent manner;
- utilize observational, investigational, and critical-thinking skills, including the ability to evaluate, interpret, and assess information and data with minimal guidance from the faculty supervisor;
- acquire and utilize knowledge and skills that enhance future success within the corresponding field;
- demonstrate initiative, responsibility, and accountability;
- demonstrate a capacity for decision-making;
- communicate their experience using a poster or oral presentation at a conference such as the Westminster URAC, an undergraduate conference, or a professional conference.

Course Grade: Students who register for an independent study within the biology department will earn a letter grade for the course. The supervisor will assign a letter grade based on materials submitted, materials presented, and the quality of completing course objectives.