CHE 684: Honors Research

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Meeting Time: By appointment, based on student and faculty availability
Office hours: Consult posted schedule on office door, by drop-in, and by appointment.

Course description: Students enrolled in 684 are expected to produce and defend an undergraduate honors research thesis 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. The student is expected to work in the laboratory to perform research experiments, as well as become versed in the scientific literature that provides the context for the given research 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 by reviewing lab results and creating future research plans.
- Documentation of laboratory work is required to show proof of experimental accomplishments.
- A final paper 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 weekly meetings, meets required hours, excellent written thesis and defense</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Satisfactory progress towards project aims, comes for weekly meetings, meets required hours, satisfactory written thesis and defense</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aims are not met, weekly meetings poorly attended, lack of time commitment, acceptable written thesis and defense</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fails to write/defend thesis</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.