BIOL 7000, Introduction to Research

Spring Semester 2011, Section A (CRN# 21246, 2 Credit hours)
Department of Biology, College of Arts & Science, Valdosta State University

Lecture & Discussion (BC 2022): W 6:00 p.m. 7:50 p.m.

Instructor: Dr. Brian C. Ring

Office: BC 2092

Office hours: **T & R** 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. or by appointment.

Phone: 249-4841 (Dept. office 333-5759)

Email: bcring@valdosta.edu (please use BlazeView first)

Pre-Requisites: Acceptance into the graduate program in biology.

<u>Course Description</u>: An introduction to the scientific method, primary research literature, methods of literature review and scientific writing. A research proposal is required by the end of the semester. This course is to be taken during the student's first semester in the graduate program (if possible). In addition, students will learn about procedures for achieving approval for working with biohazards, hazardous materials, recombinant DNA, and animals in a compliant manner (IACUC); tour the biology department facilities, learn about various faculty research areas and appropriate health & safety measures, and how to submit a grant proposal through VSU Office of Sponsored Programs & Research Activities (OSPRA).

Course Objectives: Upon completion of this course the student should be able to:

- 1) Meet all requirements and deadlines for successful completion of the MS thesis (BO1-BO4);
- 2) Perform a literature search and prepare a research proposal on a significant biological question (BO1, BO2, BO3, GE3, GE4, & GE7);
- 3) Engage in writing and peer review of research proposals (BO2, BO3, BO4, GE3, GE7, & GE8);
- 4) Utilize appropriate university & departmental institutions for performing compliant research (BO2 & GE5).

These course exertives support the VSU Biology Department Graduate Program Outcomes # 1-4 and the University General Educational Outcomes # 3, 4, 5 & 7 as listed in the VSU Graduate Catalogue (see below).

VSU Biology Educational Outcomes (BOs):

BO1. To demonstrate competency in factual content and interpretation of the major biological concept areas of cell and

grade will be based upon satisfactory completion of assigned projects. 25% of the grade will be based on attendance and participation in faculty presentations and discussions.

<u>Tentative Schedule:</u> Please note that dates are tentative and will change depending on faculty availability and the rate at which material is covered.

January

12 -First class meeting, Introduction, Sample proposal & review Wednesday Wednesday 19 - Speaker - Brian C. Ring, Proposal Critique & Discussion Wednesday 26 - Biosafety & Recombinant DNA Approval- Jennifer Turco **February** 2 - Library Instruction- Laura Wright, Odum Library room 2634 (second floor) Wednesday 9 - Animal Use & Care - Theresa Grove Wednesday Wednesday 16 - Speaker - Jim Loughry, Proposal Outline Due 23 - Speaker - OSPRA- Barbara Gray Wednesday March Wednesday 2 - Speaker - TBA 3 - Midterm, last day to drop without penalty Thursday Wednesday 9 - Speaker - TBA Week of 14-18 – Spring Break Wednesday 23 - Speaker - TBA, Proposal Rough Draft Due Wednesday 30 - Speaker - TBA April Wednesday 6 - Speaker - TBA Wednesday 13 - Speaker - TBA Wednesday 20 - Speaker - TBA

27 - Health & Safety-TBA, Final proposal draft due

Wednesday 27 · May Exam week No

No Class

<u>Dropping A Course Without Penalty:</u> In order to officially drop a course without penalty, a student must obtain and fill out a drop/add form from the Registrar's Office, acquire appropriate signatures, and return the completed form to the Registrar's Office before the designated date (March 3, 2011