**Fall 2018**

**Syllabus for BIOL 4910 and H4910**

**Independent Research**

**Instructor:**

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**Course Meets:** TBA; On average, the minimum time spent on research is approximately 3 hours/week per credit taken. However, the workload will vary from week to week as dictated by the research.

**Course Description:**

Students will undertake an independent research program under the supervision of the professor and/or one of the graduate students in the lab. The exact nature of the projects differ and may change over time, but students will investigate various aspects of plant ecology or population genetics. The research topic will be agreed upon by the professor and student before the research begins.

**Learning Outcomes:**

By the end of a two-semester sequence of BIOL 4910, students will:

* Have followed the scientific method to investigate a subject of interest to them.
* Have conducted their own research and written a report based on their findings.
* Have presented their findings orally to the lab group.
* Be familiar with the important literature in their subject of interest.
* Be able to conduct basic statistical analyses and create graphs and tables of their findings.

**Students will be required to do the following:**

1. Make a steady and sustained effort to progress on their projects.
2. Keep graduate student and professor up-to-date about the progress of the project.
3. Keep the lab clean and orderly.
4. Participate in lab meetings.
5. Prepare a summary of their research complete with background information and data analysis at the end of each semester.
6. BIOL H4910 students are required to write a thesis complete with citations in the proper format and give an oral presentation before the end of their second semester of taking H4910.

**Grade Determination:**

A - Excellent performance in lab and adherence to above requirements

B - Good performance in lab and adherence to above requirements

C - Satisfactory performance in lab and adherence to above requirements

D - Barely adequate performance in lab and adherence to above requirements

F - Poor performance in lab and adherence to above requirements

**Clemson’s Statement on Students with Disabilities:**

“It is University policy to provide, on a flexible and individualized basis, reasonable accommodations to students who have disabilities. Students are encouraged to contact Student Disability Services to discuss their individual needs for accommodation.”

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should make an appointment with Dr. Margaret Camp (656-6848), Director of Disability Services, to discuss specific needs. Accommodations are not retroactive and new Faculty Accommodation Letters must be presented each semester. If you have an accommodation letter issued by Student Disability Services, please see the instructor after class or email for an appointment. We are happy to provide all necessary accommodations, but requests must be made two weeks prior to the first exam date.

**Academic Integrity:**

In this course, we will adhere to the policy stated in the Clemson University Undergraduate Announcements. "As members of the Clemson University community, we have inherited Thomas Green Clemson's vision of this institution as a 'high seminary of learning.' Fundamental to this vision is a mutual commitment to truthfulness, honor and responsibility, without which we cannot earn the trust and respect of others. Furthermore, we recognize that academic dishonesty detracts from the value of a Clemson degree. Therefore, we shall not tolerate lying, cheating, or stealing in any form."

**Clemson’s Title IX (Sexual Harassment) statement:**

Clemson University is committed to a policy of equal opportunity for all persons and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender, pregnancy, national origin, age, disability, veteran’s status, genetic information or protected activity (e.g., opposition to prohibited discrimination or participation in any complaint process, etc.) in employment, educational programs and activities, admissions and financial aid. This includes a prohibition against sexual harassment and sexual violence as mandated by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. This policy is located at <http://www.clemson.edu/campus-life/campus-services/access/title-ix/>. Mr. Jerry Knighton is the Clemson University Title IX Coordinator. He also is the Director of Access and Equity. His office is located at 111 Holtzendorff Hall, 656-3181.