Research Skills in Biology

BIOL 2173

Part 1: Course Information

Instructor Information

Biology majors will work with a faculty member in the Biology Department as the primary supervisor. Masters students, post-doctoral fellows and adjunct professors may also serve as mentors. If you have an external supervisor (e.g., an adjunct professor), you are responsible for discussing skills development and workload in BIOL 2173 with both the primary and external supervisor. The primary supervisor will assign your final grade (described below).

For any questions, please contact jennifer.kershaw@acadiau.ca (for fall term) or helene.dentremont@acadiau.ca (for the winter term).

Course Description

The objective of this course is to provide second-year Biology majors with an opportunity to gain hands-on experience by assisting in an on-going research project. The course is intended to be flexible and engage students in a variety of research areas. Three to five research skills will be developed throughout the term and may include trouble-shooting procedures, field work, data entry, processing samples, maintaining cultures, or others depending on the project. The research must be supervised by a member of the department. BIOL 2173 can be completed in either the fall or winter term (6h/ wk) and may be taken only once per student.

Space is limited for this course. To apply, please complete the application form: https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/eF8TatzHQQ by April 1st of your first year of study and we will try to match you with a suitable supervisor, if one is available. We will accept applications after that date, but may not have any remaining project placements available, depending on the year.

Part 2: Grading Policy

Students are required to meet with their primary supervisor in the first week of the term to identify shared expectations for the course. This includes an introduction to the research project you will assist with, the specific research skills (three to five) that you will develop in the course, weekly schedule, etc. Keep a written outline of the expectations and make sure your supervisor(s) have a copy (Learning Outcomes form, page 4 of this document).
BIOL 2173 is graded pass/ fail.

Part 3: The Process

1. Complete the application form by April 1st of your first year of study: https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/eF8TatzHQQ. Remember that space is limited.

2. Your potential supervisor will contact you to set up an interview and to discuss the research project with you.
3. If it is a good fit, your supervisor will email the unit's administrative assistant to register you in the course.
4. Meet with your primary supervisor in the first week of classes to define shared expectations (see Part 2), and what you need to achieve in order to successfully complete the course (see Learning Outcomes form at the end of this document). At the end of the meeting, the supervisor will upload the form to the class Teams channel: 1 Start of Term Learning Outcomes Forms
5. The student and supervisor will meet at the end of term and complete the final components of the Learning Outcomes form. The supervisor be responsible for uploading a completed form to the class Teams channel: 2 End of Term Completed Learning Outcome Forms
6. Students taking BIOL 2173 will have an opportunity to meet with the rest of the class twice per term (half-way, and in the last week of classes). This meeting will be with term's course coordinator and the Department Head and will allow you to briefly discuss the project you are involved with and the skills you are developing.

Feel free to contact the course coordinators Jen Kershaw (fall term) jennifer.kershaw@acadiau.ca and Hélène d'Entremont (winter term) helene.dentremont@acadiau.ca, or the Department Head, at any time if you have questions or concerns about the course.

Part 4: University Policies

University policies are available in the Acadia University Academic Calendar or through the Registrar's website: https://registrar.acadiau.ca/welcometotheregistrarsoffice.html

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

Acadia University is committed to becoming a culturally safe and anti-oppressive community. This can only be achieved where there are simultaneous efforts to eliminate all forms of discrimination and harassment from our campus community, including the elimination of all discrimination, harassment and violence based on one's identity, including but not limited to, gender, race, class, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability, gender identity, gender expression, and Indigeneity. The policy against harassment and discrimination, and resources for students who believe they may have experienced, or witnessed, discrimination or harassment, are available here: https://www2.acadiau.ca/student-life/equity-judicial/equity.html

Last Drop Day

Last day to drop a course and receive a "W". Please check the Acadia University calendar dates, which are available here: https://registrar.acadiau.ca/AcademicCalendars.html

Inform Your Instructor of Accommodations

Acadia University is dedicated to improving access to campus life for all students with disabilities. While we attempt to ensure that all courses are accessible, we recognize that there are barriers that need to be addressed on an individual basis. Students who require accommodations to complete coursework or otherwise fully participate in class should contact Accessible Learning Services directly at (accessible.learning@acadiau.ca) as soon as possible. More information is also available at Accessible Learning Services website.

Commitment to Integrity

Cheating in the class and/or lab, including plagiarism, will not be tolerated. Please read the appropriate sections of the current Acadia University Academic Calendar: https://registrar.acadiau.ca/AcademicCalendars.html

The Use of Animals in Teaching and Research

The use of animals in teaching and research at Acadia University is done in accordance with guidelines on the care and use of animals published by the Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC). For more information on the CCAC, please visit their website at http://www.ccac.ca

Share the Air Policy

In consideration of the difficulties that exposure to scented products causes individuals with sensitivities and allergies, all students, faculty, staff, employees of any companies working on university property, visitors, and guests of Acadia University, or of members of the University community are asked to refrain from wearing scented personal care products such as perfumes / aftershave, lotions, hair spray and deodorant. In addition, users of tobacco and cannabis are asked to be aware that odours associated with product use may impact individuals with sensitivities and allergies. Acadia University in consultation with its contracted cleaning staff, have agreed to use products that do not leave residual odors that may cause difficulties for individuals with sensitivities and allergies. https://hr.acadiau.ca/employment/university-policies.html

BIOL 2173 Research Skills in Biology
Learning Outcomes

Student:	Faculty Supervisor:
Other Mentors/ Lab Members:	
Term/ Year:	

Name of research project:

Specific research skills to be developed (3-5 expected):

	To be completed at the end of the term	
Skill	*Level of Proficiency**	*Comments*
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		

** I (introduced), A (adequate) or P (proficient)*

Contact times (6h/wk):

End of term feedback: