

BIOS 4699 – Undergraduate Research: Syllabus

Course Information

Course Prefix and Number: BIOS 4699

Instructor: Dr. Ed Balog

Course Description

Undergraduate research conducted under the guidance of a faculty mentor.

Course Learning Outcomes

Students will build project-specific knowledge by understanding key concepts, applying appropriate methods, and demonstrating the technical skills necessary to carry out independent or collaborative research. They will also develop foundational skills in scientific communication, critical thinking, and research practice.

Required Course Materials

No textbooks or materials are required. Resources for research are determined in consultation with the thesis advisor.

Statement About Acceptable Student Conduct

Students enrolled in this undergraduate research course are expected to maintain professional conduct consistent with Georgia Tech's standards of mutual respect, responsibility, and academic integrity. At the start of the course, students and research mentors will establish clear expectations regarding weekly time commitment (approximately three hours per week per credit hour), communication, and research practices, including how data are recorded, stored, and shared. Students are expected to maintain accurate and well-organized lab notebooks, engage collaboratively and respectfully with other members of the research group, and actively reflect on their progress and challenges. Day-to-day supervision may be provided by the lab manager or senior graduate students, and students are expected to communicate regularly and work responsibly within this mentorship structure.

Grading Policy

This course is graded on a letter grade basis and reflects the student's engagement, professionalism, and fulfillment of agreed-upon research expectations rather than traditional exams or assignments. Students are expected to meet the agreed weekly time commitment (approximately three hours per week per credit hour), actively participate in research activities, maintain accurate and complete lab records, and communicate regularly with their mentor(s).

A grade of **A** will be assigned to students who consistently meet these expectations, demonstrate responsible conduct, and make good-faith efforts in their research activities.

Lower grades (A-, B+, etc.) may be assigned in cases of inconsistent attendance, inadequate effort, poor documentation, or lack of communication. Significant failure to meet expectations may result in a grade of **C** or below.

Because research progress can vary, evaluation is based on effort, engagement, and professionalism rather than specific experimental outcomes.

Attendance Policy

Undergraduate research students will participate in research activities on a weekly basis commensurate with registered credit hours and as discussed with faculty research mentors.

Academic Honesty/Integrity Statement

Students are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. All work submitted must be original and properly cited. Plagiarism, cheating, or any form of academic dishonesty will result in immediate consequences as outlined in the university's academic honor code: <https://policylibrary.gatech.edu/student-life/academic-honor-code>

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, contact the [Office of Disability Services](#) (404-894-2563) as soon as possible to make an appointment to discuss your special needs and to obtain an accommodations letter. Please also e-mail me as soon as possible in order to set up a time to discuss your learning needs.

Campus Resources

The Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP) provides resources and support for undergraduate research students and their mentors. Visit <https://undergradresearch.gatech.edu/> or contact UROP at urop@gatech.edu for more information.