Biology 6390: Independent Research

Instructor: Dr. Jianying Zhang  
Office hours: By appointment  
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Text: None.

Prerequisites: Instructor approval.

Objective: This is a 3-unit research course for graduate students in the Doctor of Philosophy program. Students will perform research in the faculty mentor’s laboratory, and will generate, analyze and present their data in preparation for the Ph.D. degree. Research projects will be in the areas of cancer molecular biology, immunology, and epidemiology. Doctoral students are required to attend departmental seminars, graduate student seminars, and student proposal and thesis or dissertation defense presentations. Additional responsibilities may include, but are not limited to: 1) writing the dissertation proposal; 2) participating in the preparation of manuscripts and grant applications; 3) attending lab meetings; 4) meeting with members of the student’s committee; 5) presenting data at research symposia and scientific meetings; 6) participating in experimental design and performance; 7) discussing results and comparing them with those from the literature; and 8) mentoring junior lab members.

It is expected that students will dedicate a minimum of 10-15 hours per week to the completion of this course and its requirements.

Specific research projects and responsibilities will be assigned at the beginning of the semester for each student.

Exams: None.

Grading: Letter grades for this course will be determined based primarily on student attendance and performance, and will be assigned as follows:

- 90-100% A
- 80-89% B
- 70-79% C
- 60-69% D
- 59% or less F

Drop date: To receive an automatic “W”, the last day to drop or withdraw from this class is shown on the Annual Academic Calendar on UTEP webpage. After this date, a “W” can only be assigned by the Dean of the College of Science, and is only granted under exceptional circumstances.
**Academic Integrity Policy:** UTEP’s policies regarding academic integrity apply in this course. Information on this policy can be found at [http://academics.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=23785](http://academics.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=23785)

**Civility Statement:** Please be respectful of all students’ right to learn without disruptions. In line with this statement please make an active effort to respect the other students working in the laboratories. Avoid making excessive amounts of noise and try to remember to turn your cell phone to vibrate mode.

**Disability Statement:** If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148, or by email to cass@utep.edu, or visit their office located in UTEP Union East, Room 106. For additional information, please visit the CASS website at [www.sa.utep.edu/cass](http://www.sa.utep.edu/cass).

**Course Schedule:** The schedule for each student will be determined on an individual basis based on that student’s course schedule etc…Graduate students wishing to perform a thesis project are expected to be in the lab working anytime they are not in class. Students are expected to be in the lab after hours and on weekends if required by the experiments being performed.