

**Biology 6690: Independent Research (6 units)****BRB 3.216****Instructor:** Dr. Kyle L. Johnson, Department of Biological SciencesOffice hours: By appointment

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**Text:** None.**Prerequisites:** Instructor approval.

**Objective:** This is a 6-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 area of virology. 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 18 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", students must drop or withdraw from this class by the drop date listed in the semester's academic schedule. After this date, a "W" can only be assigned by the Dean of the College of Science, and is only granted under exceptional circumstances.