Course Objectives: This course is designed to provide a research framework around which Masters level students can begin to develop a thesis project. Non-degree Masters students who wish to experience the laboratory setting for the purposes of teaching etc… may also take this course

1. Gain a basic understanding of research design and implementation

2. Gather preliminary data that can be used to propose a thesis project to be completed in my laboratory or that can be used to share your experiences with K12 students in the classroom etc...

Assessment of Course Objectives: A learning outcomes evaluation (self-assessment) will be handed out for you to complete at the end of the semester.

Textbook: None Required. Research literature will be provided.

Activities/Assignments:

Laboratory work: Under my direction you will undertake an independent research project. Refer to the Department of Biological Sciences website for details regarding the research interests of my laboratory.

Final Summary: Each student will provide a 2 page research report summarizing their research activities at the end of the semester.

Grading: You will be graded on a combination of effort and the final research summary. Effort will comprise 70% of your grade and will include the time spent in the lab (attendance). The final research summary will comprise 30% of your grade. Grading scale: A=90-100%; B=80-89%; C=70-79%; D=60-69%; F is <60%.

Make-up Policy: There will be no make-ups as there are no exams and quizzes. Failure to turn in the final research summary will result in a grade of 0% for that assignment.

Absence and Drop Policy: It is your responsibility to attend the lab the required amount of time. If you have a serious illness or a legitimate excuse (includes military personnel called to active duty or training) for being out-of-town, make arrangements with me before you leave. October 30 is the last day students may drop with an automatic “W”.

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

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.

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. Those simply taking the class for credit are expected to put at least 12 hours a week in the lab.