

**BIOL 4198, 4298, & 4398  
Special Problems**

Time: TBA  
Cox Lab, Biosciences 3.200

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emergency contact: Lisa Norman (915) 747-5802  
Office Hours: Biosciences 3.128, open door policy

**Course Objectives:** This course is designed to provide an introduction to laboratory research and to generate interest in careers in biomedical research

1. Gain a basic understanding of research design and implementation
2. Gain experience in the use of advanced research methodologies that will provide a head start in a graduate school setting.

**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.

**Course Activities/Assignments:**

Laboratory work: Each student will be expected to spend 4 hours per credit hour in the laboratory throughout the semester. For example, if you register for 4398 (3 credit hours) you will be expected to spend 12 hours per week in the laboratory. Students taking special problems are typically paired up with a graduate student mentor and the work that you will perform in the lab will be directly related to that graduate student's project. Thus, you may have opportunities to earn co-authorship on publications, to network with other professors and graduate students, and to gain references for graduate and professional school. 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](mailto: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...