
Independent Study
Biology 5399
Spring 2026

Instructor: Brent Bill, Ph.D.

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Office hours: Monday 10-11:30AM, Tuesday 12:30 -2:00 PM, or by appointment

Course Objectives

Independent study in specific areas of biology not covered by organized undergraduate courses. A maximum of six credit hours for independent study courses may be applied toward an undergraduate degree.

Student Learning Outcomes

- Read and process scientific literature.
- Learn the basics of scientific writing.
- Learn to conduct independent research.

Required Textbook and Other Materials: The instructor will determine the texts and journal articles required for the class. Students will work with faculty mentors on an independent study.

Assignments and Grading: Students will be evaluated based on the following work.

Participation will count for 100% of the grade. This will include independent research with your advisor.

We will follow a 10-point scale for grading:

A = 90 -100% B = 80 -89% C = 70 – 79% D = 60 -69% F = 0 – 59%

Academic Misconduct: Submitting plagiarized work to meet academic requirements, including the representation of another's work or ideas as one's own; the unacknowledged word-for-word use of another person's ideas; and/or the falsification, fabrication, or dishonesty in reporting research results, shall be grounds for charges of academic misconduct. Any form of cheating or academic misconduct will be reported to the university administration and, at a minimum, will result in the automatic failure of the course.

Tentative Class Schedule: Class meeting time TBD. We will meet once per week for 3 or as needed to complete assignments. A weekly schedule will be set between the instructor and the student on an individual basis.